Hafa Adai!

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Traditional hut set on fire

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» 4th arson-related case in area in 7-year period

The biggest hut at the Carolinian *utt* in Garapan went up in flames last Tuesday night after an unidentified person or persons set it on fire.

It is the fourth arson-related case in the area over a seven-year period.

Only the top portion of the rooftop, which is made of woods and grass, was burned as firefighters managed to stop the blaze from engulfing the whole hut. The Carolinian *utt* is made up of several traditional huts.

No one was reported injured in the fire.

John Henry Tagabuel, executive assistant for Carolinian Affairs, said yesterday that the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services called him at 9pm Tuesday for fire-

See FIRE on Page 4

Carolinian Affairs executive assistant John Henry Tagabuel points to the fire damage on the biggest of the traditional huts located at the Carolinian *utt* compound in Garapan yesterday morning. Unidentified person or persons set the hut on fire last Tuesday night. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

2 men rescued off Saipan coast

A rescue operation on Saturday for two men who were adrift on their boat off the coast of Saipan ended happily with both men hoisted aboard a rescue helicopter.

The search began Saturday afternoon after the two men failed to return home after a fishing trip.

The fishermen on board the M/V *Serenity* had reported engine failure to the vessel owner around Marpi Banks, Saipan, early morning on Saturday, Feb. 25.

After searching for several hours, the owner reported the overdue vessel to the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Division. DPS immediately

See RESCUED on Page 4

15 to represent NMI at NJSDA nationals in June

By YUUKI NISHIDA
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STUDENT REPORTER

Fifteen students who bagged gold medals in the four-day regionals last week at Mount Carmel School will represent the islands in the National Junior Speech and Debate Association competition this June.

Over 100 students vied for top spots in 11 categories in last week's contest.

The NJSDA regionals also named the members of the CNMI team that will represent the islands in the upcoming national competition in Birmingham, Alabama.

Grace Christian Academy's Na Lee Christy Lee will represent the islands in Lincoln-Douglas debate; Green Meadows School's Jill Anne Mallari

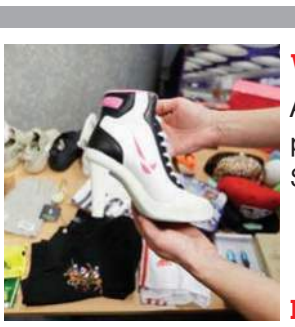
See NJSDA on Page 4

Members of the National Junior Speech and Debate Association team that will represent the CNMI at the national competition this June pose for a photo with their speech coaches at Mount Carmel School during the award ceremony. YUUKI NISHIDA

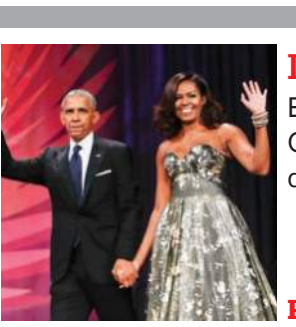
Pangelinan, Fernandez top teen poetry slam tilt. PAGE 2
Man allegedly violates TRO, another threatens to kill girl. PAGE 6

INSIDE

NATION
President Donald Trump issued a broad call for overhauling the nation's health care system.
PAGE 13



WORLD
Annual trade in fake products was worth $461 billion in 2013.
PAGE 16



LIFE & STYLE
Barack and Michelle Obama have book deals.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Pangelinan, Fernandez top teen poetry slam tilt

All the contestants of the Teen Poetry Slam contest pose together for a group picture.
YUUKI NISHIDA

By YUUKI NISHIDA
thisisyuuki@gmail.com
STUDENT REPORTER

Several public and private schools competed in the 6th Teen Poetry Slam on Tuesday at the Pacific Islands Club, with representatives of Tanapag Middle School and Saipan Southern High School taking home the top prizes.

The competition was divided into two divisions—the 13- to 15-year-old division and the 16- to 19-year-old division—with contestants creating their own poems to raise awareness about abuse in teen dating, promote healthy and safe relationships, and resources available for victims and survivors.

In the 13- to 15-year-old division, Tanapag Middle School's Victoria Mary Igitol Pangelinan said her winning piece, "*Teen Dating Violence*," was inspired by the story of her aunt, who had the same experience as told in her poem. This was Pangelinan's first time to join the teen poetry slam contest. Mount Carmel School's Kalea Lou Borja took second place, with Saipan Southern High School's Kobe Camacho bagging third.

In the 16- to 19-year-old division, Saipan Southern High School's Jeremiah Fernandez won first place with his poem "*Lost.*" His winning piece talks about the loss of innocence among teens who go through teen dating violence. The second place winner was Kagman High School's Ella Mae Eusebio, while third place went to KHS' Manuel John Borja.

Other contestants came from public and private schools that included Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, Mount Carmel School, and Tanapag Middle School.

Hosted by the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, the competitors helped raise awareness of teen dating violence and/or promote healthy relationships through slam poetry in the Northern Mariana Islands.

February 2017 was recently recognized as Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month in the CNMI. The event was a part of efforts to raise awareness of abuse in teen dating.

Victoria Pangelinan, 13-to-15 division winner, and Jeremiah Fernandez, 16-to-19 division winner, pose with their certificates at the Charley's Cabaret after the 6th annual Teen Poetry slam.
YUUKI NISHIDA

House resolutions urge DPW to work on road repairs

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Reps. Blas Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan) and Francisco C. Aguon (R-Saipan) have introduced separate House joint resolutions intended to urge the Department of Public Works to complete road repair projects on Saipan.

Attao's HJR 20-1 requests Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and DPW Secretary James A. Ada to reserve $7.25 million from the Federal Highway Fund in the next three fiscal years: at least $850,000 in fiscal year 2017, and $3.2 million each in fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

The money would be used for the architecture and engineering design for the construction of the roads, drainage, and water catchment tanks from Capital Hill to Mt. Tapochau, and Chalan Galaide to Navy Hill, including all side roads.

Attao said DPW and the Saipan Mayor's Office spend money every year to fix these roads, while the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. uses its funds to repair damaged water pipelines that have been exposed because of heavy rain.

"The residents in these areas as well as tour agents and the general public have been complaining about the dilapidated roads, dust, and traffic hazards for the past several years. The government will save a lot of money by paving the roads and fixing the drainage system," said Attao.

He added that those who would drive up to Mt. Tapochao and Chalan Galaide to Navy Hill will enjoy the trip once the roads are fixed. "The Chalan Galaide road is also used by Mt. Tapochau residents as a shortcut to Navy Hill and down to the Garapan area, most especially to the hospital and shopping for household needs."

Attao said that traffic builds up along Isa Drive on Capital Hill due to the ongoing construction of the road that was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Most government offices can be found on Capital Hill, making driving and travel in the area difficult for employees and residents.

"The paving of Capital Hill to Mt. Tapochao and Chalan Galaide will greatly reduce traffic congestion by approximately 35 percent from the main highway from Capital Hill to Garapan and vice versa," Attao added.

The FHF money that would be used each fiscal year would also include payment for land compensation.

Aguon's HJR 20-2 requests Ada to include Kannat Tabla road under the Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan, as the population in the area has grown rapidly in the last several years.

Since the road going to Kannat Tabla is also a coral road, Aguon said that residents are having a hard time driving there, especially during the rainy season because of flooding and bad conditions. "The runoff not only damages the Kannat Tabla area but the neighboring areas of Dandan and Chalan Kiya due to flooding and road damage."

"[The Saipan Mayor's Office] continues to invest in manpower hours, equipment and rentals to fix the Kannat Tabla road. Including the Kannat Tabla road under TTIP would not only allow [he SMO] to use much needed funding in other areas of its responsibilities, it would also provide safety [for all]."

Appeals court reverses ruling in Ramsey's lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals reversed yesterday the federal court's ruling in the wrongful termination lawsuit filed by former Commonwealth Health Center medical staff Dr. Gary Ramsey.

Judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit remanded the case back to the U.S. District Court for the NMI and directed it to grant the Commonwealth's motion to dismiss, saying the CNMI retained its sovereign immunity with respect to claims arising under Commonwealth law.

"In short, we hold that the Commonwealth may not be sued without its consent on claims arising under its own laws," according to the Ninth Circuit opinion penned by Judge Paul J. Watford and concurred by judges J. Clifford Walace and Jerome Farris.

The Ninth Circuit judges held that the 9th Circuit ruling in the *Fleming v. Department of Public Safety* has no effect on Ramsay's case because the Fleming decision held only that the Commonwealth waived its sovereign immunity with respect to "suits in federal court arising under federal law."

The judge said if Hawaii and Puerto Rio enjoyed sovereign immunity with respect to claims brought under their own laws, it is even clearer that the Commonwealth enjoys sovereign immunity with respect to claims arising under its own laws.

Ramsey, through counsel Stephen C. Woodruff, alleges in his lawsuit that the Commonwealth and the public corporation that runs CHC wrongfully denied him privileges at the hospital.

Ramsey named as defendants the CNMI government, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, and several other present and former hospital officials.

On May 29, 2015, U.S. District Court for the NMI magistrate judge Heather L. Kennedy dismissed the CNMI government and CHC from the four claims in Ramsey's lawsuit.

Kennedy dismissed with prejudice the CNMI government and CHCC from Ramsey's four claims: declaratory and injunctive relief—unlawful deprivation of property without due process of law, two claims of damages—unlawful deprivation of property without due process of law, and a claim of damages—unlawful deprivation of liberty and property without due process of law. Dismissed with prejudice means Ramsey could not re-file the four claims in the future.

Kennedy also dismissed with prejudice Ramsey's two other claims: violation of the U.S. Constitution and violation of the CNMI Constitution.

In her order, Kennedy denied the defendants' motion to dismiss on sovereign immunity grounds, but granted the motion to dismiss with respect to the "persons" argument and the contracts clause claims.

Kennedy's dismissal left the following causes of action: breach of contract, tortious interference with contract, breach of covenant of good faith and fair dealing, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and liability of the CNMI government.

The CNMI government and co-defendants, through then-solicitor division chief James M. Zarones, appealed to the Ninth Circuit.

Zarones appeared Kennedy's order, which held that the defendants are not entitled to sovereign immunity.

In reversing Kennedy's ruling, the Ninth Circuit judges said that in the Fleming case, they held that the Commonwealth does not enjoy sovereign immunity in federal court with respect to claims brought under federal law.

The judges said they reached that conclusion after examining the foundational document that created the Commonwealth, known as the Covenant to establish the CNMI in political union with the United States.

Although the Covenant does not explicitly address sovereign immunity, the judges concluded that a waiver of immunity could be inferred from one of its provisions, Section 501(a). The section states: "To the extent that they are not applicable of their own force, the following provisions of the Constitution of the United States will be applicable within the Northern Marianas as if the Northern Mariana Islands were one of the several States…"

» Judges rule that CNMI retained its sovereign immunity

The judges said Section 501(a) then lists roughly two dozen provisions of the U.S. Constitution, but absent from that list is the 11th Amendment, which recognizes states' immunity from private suits in federal court.

The judges said they held that the omission of the 11th Amendment signaled an intention to waive the Commonwealth's sovereign immunity in federal court with respect to claims arising under federal law.

The judges said they found confirmation of this implied waiver in the section-by-section analysis of the Covenant, an authoritative source of the Covenant's legislative history prepared by the Marianas Political Status Commission.

The judges said the section-by-section analysis states that the Covenant provides the people of the NMI with the right to local self-government under a constitution of their own making, thereby ensuring that the "Northern Mariana Islands government will be an independent government, like that of the states."

As a consequence, the judges pointed out, "the government of the Northern Mariana Islands will have sovereign immunity, so that it cannot be sued on the basis of its own laws without its consent."

This reference to sovereign immunity, they said, limited to claims arising under the Commonwealth's own laws, supplied "persuasive evidence" that the drafters of the Covenant intended to waive the Commonwealth's sovereign immunity with respect to claims arising under federal law.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
INVITATION TO BID
MVA-ITB-17-2001

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Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
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Saipan, MP 96950

A Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference which will be held on Friday, March 10, 2017 at 10:00 am in the MVA main conference room.

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
MVA Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher Concepcion
Managing Director

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Sablan, Demapan offer contrasting views on codel visit

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Last week's visit of a delegation from the U.S. Congress elicited contrasting views from Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) and Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan).

Despite the short time they spent in the CNMI, Sablan expressed appreciation for their visit. Demapan, however, criticized the brief stop, describing it as a windshield tour and comparing it to the two days the delegation spent in American Samoa.

Demapan was the Federal and Foreign Affairs Committee chairman in the 19th CNMI Legislature and was part of the CNMI panel in last year's 902 talks.

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-1st Utah), the Natural Resources committee chair in the U.S. House of Representatives, led the delegation after being invited by Sablan to visit the CNMI. Both lawmakers have been discussing the trip two years ago ever since Bishop became the Natural Resources chairman.

Reps. Glenn Thompson (R-5th Pennsylvania) and Bruce Westerman (R-4th Arkansas), and Delegates Amata Radewagan (R-American Samoa), Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-Guam), and Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon (R-Puerto Rico) were the other codel members.

Sablan thanked Bishop and the rest of the codel members for making the effort to visit. "Traveling around the Pacific is a significant commitment of time, which the chair could have spent in his own district in Utah or somewhere else where his committee has jurisdiction. So, I very much appreciate [their] willingness to come to the Pacific Islands," Sablan said.

Bishop's codel traveled from Hawaii to American Samoa, to the CNMI, then to Guam. Except for Bordallo, who is from the CNMI's southern neighbor of Guam, this was their first visit to the CNMI and included stops on Tinian and Rota.

"I think there is no substitute for having decision makers on the committee actually see what life is like on our islands. This experience will inform their thinking about any island issues that they have to consider in the future," said Sablan, who added that this could be the first time for a codel to visit Rota.

"The National Park was at work on Rota and briefing the delegation further enriched the visit. And I have to say that Mayor Efraim Atalig and his team really did a wonderful job showing [the island] to the codel," he said.

The codel visited Rota as part of the NPS study to establish a national park on the island. The Mochong Latte Site, Chugai Pictograph Cave, Bird Sanctuary, Alaguan Bay Ancient Village are the prehistoric sites being considered for a national park. They include unique architectural features known in ancient Chamorro culture that represents the island.

NPS is under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources Committee along with the insular areas, territories, like the CNMI.

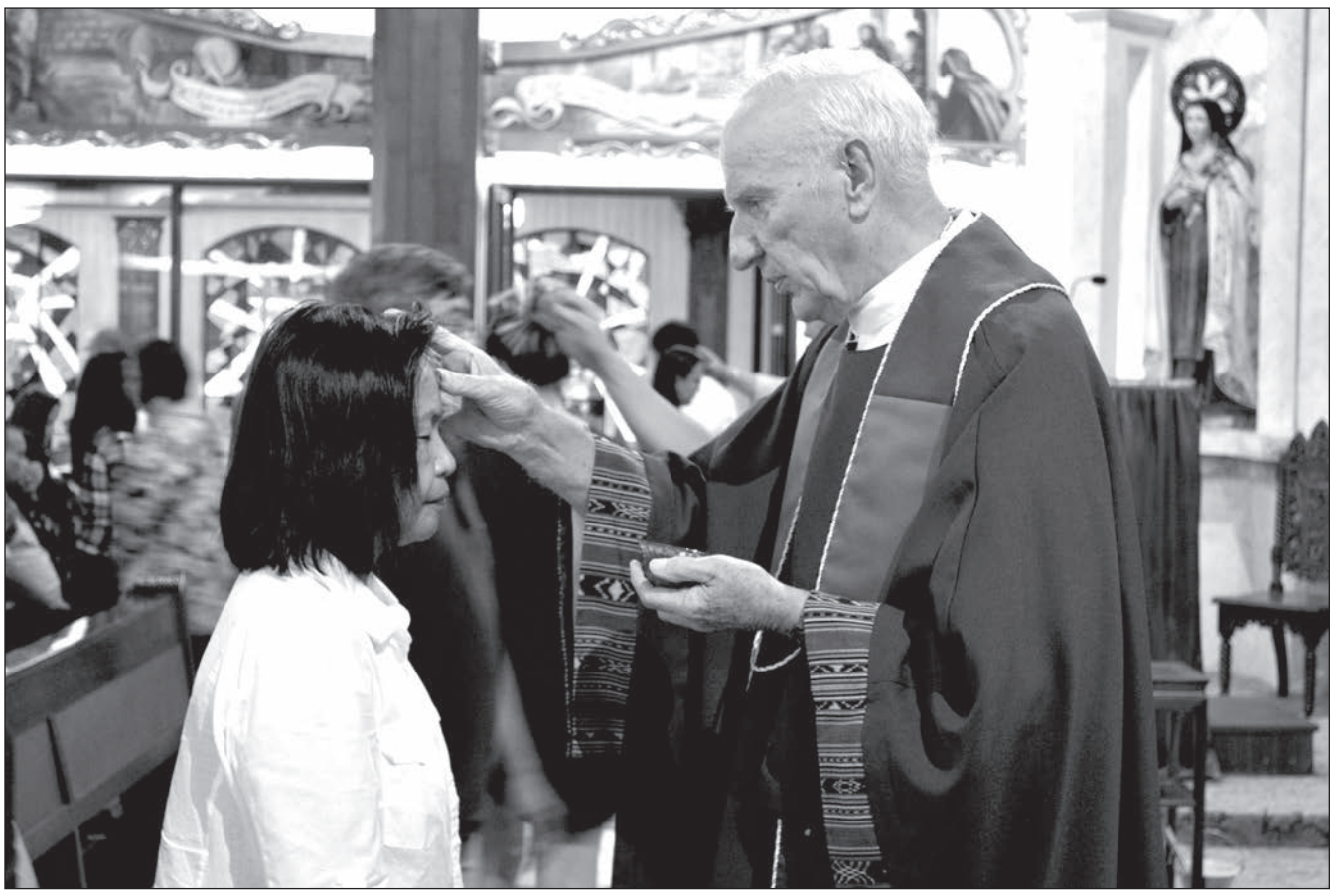
Demapan, however, was not at all impressed, saying the trip was too short to let the committee members know of the issues that affect the CNMI. He said the overnight visit is in contrast to the codel's visit to American Samoa where they spent two days.

He said Radewagen showed the codel how they have been spending federal funds and what other assistance American Samoa needs. "The codel visited American Samoa's hospital, schools, canneries, and met with the local U.S. Army Reserve unit and their families."

"Now, that's a visit. It's quite disturbing that the codel did not take the same interest in visiting the CNMI's hospital, schools, U.S. Army Reserve Unit, and their families. Our people deserve more than a windshield tour and a dinner stopover."

Demapan said this is one reason why Congress has no idea of what's happening in territories like the CNMI, which is thousands of miles away from the mainland.

"This is why we continue to suffer from federal overreach…detrimental policies made thousands of miles away by representatives and senators who, for the most part, do not have the slightest idea of where we are or who we are. So once again, a U.S. codel has come and gone, with nothing more than *leis* to take back to the discussion table in Washington, D.C."



ASH WEDNESDAY ERWIN ENCINARES

The sign of the cross is inscribed on the forehead of a Catholic devotee in observance of Ash Wednesday, which is exactly 46 days before Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer.

FIRE

From Page 1

fighters to get access to the Carolinian *utt* compound as one of the traditional huts was on fire.

Tagabuel said he has no idea who is responsible for the arson. Police have been chasing young children from hanging out there at odd hours, he added.

Tagabuel said the Carolinian *utt*, made in the form of a traditional Taga hut—a depiction of a Chamorro house in olden days—was built in 2013 via a donation from T Galleria and was worth $18,000.

He estimated the fire damage at $2,000.

He said the traditional huts are a way for the CNMI to promote the culture among tourists, students, children, and visitors.

Tagabuel said it's not the first arson case at the Carolinian *utt* compound. A smaller Carolinian traditional hut was also burned in 2014.

He appealed to the community to provide information to law enforcement on who was behind the arson.

"We'd just like to ask [the public] to respect traditional stuff because this what signifies us as people of the CNMI," Tagabuel said.

In August 2013, a fire believed to have been intentionally set off burned the concessionaire stand of Extreme Marine Sports at the beach site behind the Carolinian *utt*.

In February 2010, a fire of unknown cause burned the concessionaire stand of the Asia Marine Sports, which was located next to Extreme Marine Sports.

NJSDA

From Page 1

will compete in poetry; Saipan Community School's Vinson Bacani and James Park will compete in duo interpretation; Whispering Palms School's Dane Hodges and James Keaton will represent original oratory and extemporaneous speaking, respectively; Dandan Middle School's Jonathan Wolf, Tioni Reyes, and Rio Ayu Shadow will represent in humorous interpretation, impromptu speaking, and declamation, respectively.

DMS' Elaine Fernandez, who will be representing the CNMI in storytelling, said she is nervous and will be ready for the next few months of practice. Her older brother, Jeremiah Fernandez, also represented the CNMI in the same event.

Hopwood Middle School dominated the competition with four representatives. Vladimir Radge Palma for dramatic interpretation, Coloma Castro for Chamorro interpretation, Trixia Litulumar for Carolinian interpretation, and Vivien Liu for prose reading tied with Marianas Baptist School's Timothy Acosta.

Hopwood Middle School coach and NSDA board member Victoria Nishida lauded her students for landing the most number of representatives on the team.

"Although we come from different schools, we are still a part of the national team representing the CNMI," Nishida said.

CNMI Speech and Debate Association board chair Harold Easton praised the student orators for conquering their fear of speaking in public. He said CNMI students have a history of performing well at the national level.

The PGFC for elementary students and National Speech and Debate Association competition for high school students are expected to take place in late March and early April. Gold medalists of the high school tilt will join the NJSDA team in Alabama.

RESCUED

From Page 1

launched *Zodiac* I and III and two jet skis in search of the lost vessel.

The Joint Rescue Sub-Center in Guam also received a distress call over Channel 16 and, in coordination with Emergency Operations Center Saipan, was able to correlate the call to the same case that DPS was responding to.

At the request of U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, a Knighthawk helicopter from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 launched from Andersen Air Force Base at 2:45pm. An initial search by yielded no results.

After returning for a second search, JRSC Guam heard several "clicking" sounds coming from Channel 16. The sounds were being received by a Rescue 21 radio tower, which used its direction finding capabilities to determine the source was coming from east of the search area. JRSC quickly updated the search pattern and diverted the helicopter to the new area.

The helicopter was able to locate and hoist the two men from their vessel at 10:20pm and brought them to the Francisco C. Ada Saipan International Airport, where they were met by emergency medical services.

Rescue 21 is a computer-based system that receives and displays radio traffic from distress Channel 16 or frequency 156.8 MHz, allowing the U.S. Coast Guard to visualize and see the direction the distress call is being made from. Having a marine band radio on board the M/V *Serenity* was a large component in saving the men's lives. Without their radio capabilities the Coast Guard would not have been able to receive the mayday call or radio "clicks" that assisted with locating the vessel.

This exemplified a skilled coordination integration among the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, EOC, and DPS Saipan on a complex case in an inherently difficult area to complete a successful search and rescue that ultimately saved two lives.

HSC-25 is the Navy's only forward-deployed MH-60S expeditionary squadron. As a part of Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Pacific, it provides an armed helicopter capability for U.S. 7th Fleet in support of logistics, search and rescue and humanitarian assistance missions. HSC-25 is also the only squadron that maintains a 24-hour search-and-rescue and medical evacuation alert posture, directly supporting the U.S. Coast Guard and Joint Region Marianas.

"This incident is an example of the types of situations our sailors train for day in and day out," said HSC-25 commanding officer Cmdr. Edward Weiler. "In an era where most missions and training exercises are planned well in advance, SAR is a unique mission that time-critical problem solving and decision making." ***(Saipan Tribune, USCG, Commander, Joint Region Marianas)***

FREE MOVIE TICKETS

As part of its continuous support to the military, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Tango Theatres on Feb. 24 donated movie tickets to the Guam USO, which will serve as incentives for service members and USO volunteers. Presenting the tickets to USO volunteer Andrea Klaussen, middle, are Marylou Mejares, Tango Theatres operations manager, left, and Teri M. Flores, Tango Theatres marketing director.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SCC golf tourney is this Saturday

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is holding its golf tournament fundraiser this Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Proceeds would go to the $13,000 that the Chamber will give as educational scholarships in June this year as well as various other SCC programs.

Scholarships offered for 2016 include four $2,000 scholarships for high school seniors, one $2,000 scholarship for a Northern Marianas College student, and one $2,000 for a student of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

The golf tournament sports a two-person scramble, meaning teams of two would be formed. Each player still has their own ball, but the player with the better score would represent the team when it comes to scorekeeping.

Cash prizes for both categories, team gross and team double peoria, have the same prizes. The first place pair gets $800, second gets $500, and third gets $300.

Triple J Motors will be sponsoring a hole-in-one prize of a 2017 Mazda 6 and three hole-in-one opportunities of $5,000 each are offered by Pacifica Insurance, McDonald's Saipan, and Takagi Insurance and the Chamber's Saipan Young Professionals.

Registration forms are available for download at www.saipanchamber.com, at the SCC office in the Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, and at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

For more information about the event, contact Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec at 234-7150 or at administrator@saipanchamber.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the **Personnel Committee** will meet on Monday, March 6, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

The Operations Committee will also meet on the **same day immediately right after** the Personnel Committee meeting. The committee meetings will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda
II. Public Comments**
III. Executive Session***
   (Consultation with the Legal Counsel on Personnel Matters)
IV. Adjournment

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda
II. Public Comments**
III. Executive Session***
   (Consultation with the Legal Counsel on Operations Matters)
IV. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda may be modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Committee members may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

LIFELINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

YOU MAY QUALIFY

*Must present one supporting document below

If you fall under any of these programs:

- Supplemental Nurition Assistance Program (SNAP) [Food Stamps]
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FHPA) or Section 8
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicaid

Or fall Under Income Guidelines:

NUMBER IN HOUSEHOLD	POVERTY GUIDELINE
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Man allegedly violates TRO, another threatens to kill girl

A man who allegedly visited and called a former girlfriend in violation of a restraining order has been arrested, while another man was apprehended for breaking items at their house and threatening to kill his girlfriend.

Frank James Ichiro Sablan, 34, was detained for disturbing the peace and contempt of court. Aldin Christopher Igisaiar, 38, was held for criminal mischief and disturbing the peace.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio granted yesterday the request of assistant attorney general Jonathan Robby Glass Jr. to increase the bail for Sablan to $20,000 cash from the original bail of $10,000 cash.

Glass said that Sablan has shown no respect for the law, considering that he had just been released from prison last Feb. 7 for a prior conviction.

Kim-Tenorio imposed a $5,000 cash bail on Igisaiar.

Police said the former girlfriend of Sablan called 911 last Feb. 22 and asked for a police officer to respond to her house in Koblerville because she has a temporary restraining order but Sablan would not leave her house.

When a police officer arrived at the house, he learned that the victim was not there as she was hiding at a friend's house.

The officer found Sablan across the victim's house and arrested him.

The following night, another police officer responded to the Kagman Fire Station, where the victim called for help as Sablan kept calling her cell phone. She took her children to Kagman in fear against Sablan.

The victim told police that she had to sleep at her friend's house several times with her children, slept three times at the parking lot of the Department of Public Safety, and resigned from her work at school because she's scared that Sablan would find her.

The TRO, which prohibits Sablan from having any contact with his former girlfriend, is valid until Feb. 8, 2018.

In Igisaiar's case, two police officers responded to a residence in Dandan on Monday afternoon where they arrested the defendant for domestic violence.

Igisaiar allegedly shouted at his girlfriend, threw and damaged a container, a TV remote control, and a portable stove.

The girlfriend told police that Igisaiar is a jealous person and that he sent her text messages that he would beat her up and kill her. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Author seeks entries for Marianas book

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Northern Marianas College instructor is now accepting contributions for a book intended to provide a snapshot of life in the Marianas.

Funded by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council and supported by NMC, Ajani Burrell, an author and language and humanities instructor at NMC, encouraged members of the Saipan Rotary Club last Tuesday to help spread the word about the project, a book that compiles the perspective of numerous people living in the Marianas region.

That includes both the CNMI and Guam, Burrell said.

"The book is intended to provide a panoramic perspective of what life is like today in the CNMI [and Guam]," said Burrell.

Burrell said the book's entries would focus on "what life is like today in the Marianas, what are the factors that are shaping life today, the customs and practices that are continuing and which customs and practices are fading."

According to Burrell, the main goal of the project is to develop a book that will be accessible to the public as well as reading material for related subjects, from upper middle school classes to college students.

Topics include cultural resurgence and maintenance; food and fashion; family life and culture; current trends and community issues; language indications; multicultural populations; changing beliefs and perceptions; identity conflicts; trade and business; interisland movement; and colonization in governments.

Burrell is coordinating the project with Dr. Kimberly Bunts-Anderson, who is also an instructor at NMC, and will be making trips to Rota, Tinian, and Guam to meet people as well as pursue and investigate their different stories and cultural practices.

"The project is supposed to be a compendium of many different voices in the Marianas, so we are trying to speak to as many different groups of people as possible in hopes of getting submissions and perspectives from a wide array of people in the Marianas today," said Burrell.

Burrell added that people of all ethnicities and origins are welcome to contribute, given that their written contribution is relevant.

That would include "people that are indigenous to the area, transplants, both U.S. citizens as well as other communities and groups that have a strong presence here in the Marianas. We are really hoping to give a sort of broad perspective through an examination of rather microscopic elements," he said.

According to Burrell, video interviews may be submitted as well.

Deadline for submissions is before June or July, as a manuscript is set to be done by September. For more information, contact Burrell at ajani.burrell@marianas.edu or go to the website at www.marianas.edu/culture.

WINNER'S CIRCLE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The SDA School Lego Robotics team competed on Sunday, Feb. 16, in the first Lego League competition in Walla Walla, Washington. The team was awarded first place in Core Values, second place in Robot Design, and third place in Project Presentation. They will be back on island this week. The team would like to thank each of the sponsors that made this trip and competition possible: The SDA Dental Clinic, first lady Diann Torres, Café MangoSix, Nancy Gottfried, Douglas Daley, Frank Stewart, Coconut Scanning, Got Chiba, and the Office of the Governor.

CONGRATULATIONS! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A six-student team called the Dolphinatic Architects will be representing Marianas High School at the 2017 CNMI PSS Islandwide STEM Fair under the Green Dream Home competition. The team is composed of Ian Cataluna, Jewel Cubangbang, Michaela Gatdula, Marie Manebo, Hajin Oh, and Melissa Santos. They are defending MHS and the CNMI as title champions in the University of Guam's sustainability conference and competition in April 2016. MHS held its annual STEM Fair on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017, at the MHS library.

NMC Annual Health Fair on Saturday, March 11

To promote healthy lifestyle habits and practices, the Northern Marianas College's Nursing Club is inviting the public to the 8th Annual Health Fair on Saturday, March 11, 2017, from 8am to 12pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

The health fair is supported with the assistance of the Area Health Education Center and other NMC and community volunteers.

Health fair activities will run from 8am until 12pm, but will also feature a 5K Walk starting at 6am. The first 10 participants who finish the 5K Walk will also receive a T-shirt prize and a raffle ticket. Entrance to the health fair and the 5K Walk is free for all.

In addition to the exhibits, there will be games and information booths, screenings for blood pressure, blood glucose, and HIV/STD testing and counseling. There will also be various presentations and fitness demonstrations. Funds raised will be donated to the NMC's Nursing Club to purchase lancets and other supplies used for community sevice projects.

"Our goal for this health fair is to increase awareness and the importance of living a healthier lifestyle by eating the right types of food and becoming more physically active," said NMC Nursing Club president Maritoni Raganot. "This is also a wonderful opportunity to expose yourself and your children to the different health resources available in the CNMI."

For additional information about the Health Fair, contact NMC Nursing Club 237-6741/6743 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

NMC

A Northern Marianas College nursing student prepares a community member for her free vaccination shot during last year's health fair. This year's health fair will be on Saturday, March 11, 2017, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Burglary, theft charges vs 2 repeat offenders dismissed

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho dismissed without prejudice yesterday the charges against two repeat offenders who were recently arrested for allegedly burglarizing a house on Capital Hill.

Camacho dismissed the case against Alvin Agulto Camacho and Frank Tudela Pangelinan at the request of the Office of the Attorney General. That means the OAG may re-file the case against the two in the future.

Camacho and Pangelinan were immediately freed from prison and any bail posted was released to the posting party.

The preliminary hearing today, Thursday, is vacated.

In the government's motion to dismiss the case, assistant attorney general Heather P. Barcinas said the case requires additional investigation and that the Commonwealth is unable to proceed with criminal charges at this time.

"For good cause, the Commonwealth believes it is in the interest of justice to dismiss the case without prejudice," Barcinas said.

Camacho, 43, and Pangelinan, 40, were apprehended for burglary and theft.

Police arrested the two after they allegedly went back to the house they allegedly burglarized on Capital Hill in the morning of Feb. 20. Police later found inside their car some of the items that were stolen from the house last Feb. 17. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
NMC
1981
14th Annual NMC Foundation Open
An event to benefit higher education in the CNMI
NMC Foundation open
Saipan 2017
Saturday, March 18, 2017
LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort (East Course)
Showtime: 6:00 am / Shotgun Start: 7:00 am
Flights: Championship, A, B, C, Ladies, and Seniors
Registration Fee: $100
Maximum 120 players
Limited Slots Available
First come, first serve
For Registration & Payment
NMC Cashier's Office
LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort
For More Information
Log on to www.marianas.edu
Call (670) 237 - 6833
HOLE IN ONE PRIZES:
2017 Toyota Tacoma from Atkins Kroll Toyota**
2017 Mazda 6i Sport from Triple J Motors**
$5,000 from Marianas Insurance Company
$5,000 from McDonald's
$5,000 from Pacifica Insurance
Other prizes include airline tickets, smart phones, hotel stays, and much more!
**Actual prize vehicle may not be exactly as shown
PRIZES FOR EACH FLIGHT
1st Place: $500
2nd Place $300
3rd Place: $200

Coast Guard, Navy hold joint Oceania mission

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy completed an 18-day joint mission in the Central and South Pacific under the Oceania Maritime Security Initiative to combat transnational crimes, enforce fisheries laws and enhance regional security.

Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment 103 from the Pacific Tactical Law Enforcement Team embarked USS *Michael Murphy* and conducted 16 fisheries enforcement boardings with the assistance of the ship's visit, board, search and seizure team, and law enforcement ship riders from Tuvalu and Nauru.

Five of the boardings were conducted on the high seas under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission guidelines while the other 11 were conducted in the exclusive economic zones of Tuvalu and Nauru.

Coast Guard teams and Pacific Island Nation shipriders routinely conduct joint boardings within the host country's exclusive economic zones to protect the ocean and the living marine resources within.

Boarding teams inspected documentation and fish holds for illegal activity and compliance with conservation and management measures.

"Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing undermines efforts to conserve and manage global fish stocks," said Coast Guard Cmdr. Richard Howes, chief of enforcement, Coast Guard 14th District response division. "The OMSI mission along with our partnerships with Australia, New Zealand, France, and Pacific Island Nations helps deter illegal fishing and promote economic and environmental stability in the region."

Partnership between the Coast Guard and Navy supports OMSI, a Secretary of Defense program to use Department of Defense assets transiting the Pacific region to build maritime domain awareness, ultimately supporting the Coast Guard's maritime law enforcement operations in Oceania.

"Like our forefathers who sailed these waters years ago, the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard partnership remains a formidable maritime force," said Cmdr. Robert A. Heely Jr., commanding officer of *Michael Murphy*. "We enjoyed working alongside the U.S. Coast Guard as well as the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency and our partners from Tuvalu and Nauru. It was a true team effort, and I am proud of team *Murphy*'s resilience and professionalism in accomplishing the mission."

The Coast Guard is responsible for patrolling the waters around the numerous islands belonging to the United States throughout the region. Each of these islands has territorial waters stretching out to 12 nautical miles from shore.

Beyond that, stretching out to 200 nautical miles is an exclusive economic zone, an area defined by international law that allows each nation exclusive rights to the exploration and use of the marine resources within. Oceania contains 43 percent, or approximately 1.3 million square miles, of United States' EEZs. ***(USCG)***

PASAI board meets in Auckland, NZ

The governing board of the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions held its 16th meeting in Auckland, New Zealand on Feb. 23-24 as part of their commitment to providing strategic direction, governance and leadership to the work of PASAI in the Pacific.

Among the main issues they deliberated on during the meeting were PASAI's operational plan 2017/18 – 2012/22 and related budget, and PASAI's funding strategy.

Important discussions were held with PASAI's two main donors: the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on their continuous support for PASAI.

The board also commended the work undertaken in implementing PASAI's strategic plan in response to SAI members needs.

There were also valuable contributions to the meeting from PASAI's developing partners, DFAT, MFAT, World Bank and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

"The board meeting was a success with some fruitful contributions by members in ensuring that proposed programs are in line with the objectives of PASAI, affordable, clear expected outcomes and with realistic targets," said Ihlen Joseph, board chairman and public auditor of Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia.

The PASAI governing board members.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Details of PASAI board members and past board meetings are found on the PASAI website (www.pasai.org)

The incoming Congress chair, Eli Lopati, the auditor-general of Tuvalu, also advised the board of the theme for this year's PASAI Congress: "Promoting Value and Benefits of SAIs through Effective Communication."

He assured the board that his office is ready to welcome everyone to his island for the 20th PASAI Congress in August 2017.

PASAI would like to acknowledge DFAT and MFAT, World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, INTOSAI Development Initiative, and PIFS for their continued support of PASAI and its work in the region. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PASAI Governing Board members with development partners and PASAI secretariat staff.

NMC Foundation golf tourney to feature Saipan Brewing Co.

The Saipan Brewing Co. announced yesterday that it will be participating in the upcoming Northern Marianas College Foundation Golf Tournament on March 18 by serving its highly popular craft beer.

"We're excited to be taking part in the tournament by sharing our local, specially brewed line of beers with the golfers of the NMC Foundation Golf Tournament," said Stephen Sablan, Saipan Brewing Co. brew master.

According to Sablan, Saipan Brewing Co.'s beer reflects island tastes and lifestyle. The company has also just begun distributing its bottled craft beer in different flavors in various local stores and establishments.

The 14th Annual NMC Foundation open golf tournament will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2017, at the Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort (east course). Show time is at 6am and the shotgun start will be at 7am. The tournament will follow a medal play format.

First place winners in the men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies Flights will each receive $500, while $300 and $200 will go to the second and third place finishers.

Hole-in-one prizes include a 2017 Toyota Tacoma from Atkins Kroll Saipan, a 2017 Mazda6i Sport from Triple J Motors, and $5,000 in cash each from Marianas Insurance Company, McDonald's, and Pacifica Insurance. The tournament will also feature many other items as raffle prizes like smartphones, hotel stays, meal gift certificates, and much more.

Registration and payment can be made at Laolao Bay Golf Resort or the NMC Cashier's Office. For sponsorship opportunities or registration information, visit marianas.edu or call 237-6833. ***(NMC)***

The Saipan Brewing Co. will be serving its highly popular craft beer at the Northern Marianas College Foundation Golf Tournament on March 18. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

VA town hall meeting

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is having a town hall meeting hosted by Honolulu Regional Office director Karen M. Gooden and Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care System associate director Tonia J. Bagby and nurse executive Kate Hansen-Schmitt at the Kanoa Resort, Seaside Hall on March 9, 2017, from 1pm to 2:30pm.

We are encouraging all veterans, their families and any organization or individual who works with or on behalf of veterans to attend.

Point of contact is Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. ***(PR)***

Puerto Rico Park still closed to public

For safety reasons, the CNMI government is asking the public to refrain from entering the Puerto Rico Park facility. Construction is still at its final phase; therefore, the facility is still considered closed to the public. The park will be officially opened on April 1, 2017. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association, Inc. monthly support meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2017, starting at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker will be Dr. Ji Kim, gastroenterologist, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., who will speak on colorectal cancer prevention and early detection. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(CCA)***

NEW GARDEN

The creation of a new garden at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is its latest collaboration with Imperial Pacific International through its Corporate Social Responsibility department. Here, CSR representative Zachary Dela Cruz unloads soil at the JKPL site

IPI-CSR

Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility team collects soil to be used in creating a garden beside the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. IPI-CSR

Imperial Pacific International through its Corporate Social Responsibility department prepares the garden site at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The garden's creation is the library's latest project. IPI-CSR

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Careless drivers, young and old, are a menace

In recent years, we've heard a lot about the rising number of millennials who never bother to learn how to drive. They're the first generation of Americans since automobiles rolled off the assembly lines of Detroit to have no interest in the teenage ritual of securing driver's licenses.

In an age of Uber, more efficient mass transit options and even the promise of autonomous cars, this may not be a big deal. If millennials want to lessen their carbon footprint by slacking their lust for buying and owning cars, more power to them.

The problem, as they say, is more with those who do drive. According to a report by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, in a survey of 2,511 millennial drivers, 88.4 percent between 19 and 24 admit to texting while driving.

Drivers between 16 and 18 are at 69.3 percent. The stupidity and recklessness doesn't stop there. Millennial drivers also admit to running red lights even if they could have stopped safely, and speeding in both highway and non-highway situations.

Attitudes are almost as bad as actions. Twelve percent of millennials surveyed said they don't believe there's anything wrong with going 10 mph above the posted speed limit in a school zone. Only 5 percent of non-millennials try to justify such behavior.

In 2015, the number of U.S. traffic deaths rose 7 percent from the previous year to 35,092. This represents the biggest one-year increase in half a century. Millennials with their distracted driving habits, unfortunately, are a big part of that deadly mix.

It isn't just a problem for millennials. Seventy-five percent of those aged 40-59 admitted to driving just as recklessly as millennials. Those between 60 and 74 admitted to driving as poorly as their young counterparts 67.3 percent of the time. The over 75-year-old drivers had a slightly higher rate at 69.1 percent. None of this is acceptable.

The parody of an old person screaming at young people usually involves an old man standing on his porch shaking his fist at the neighborhood kids and saying: "Get off my lawn." That cliche isn't appropriate here because millennials and non-millennials are both guilty of violating their civic responsibilities and putting us all in danger while behind the wheel.

(c)2017 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

Democrats don't have to resort to xenophobia for immigration fix

By FRANCIS WILKINSON
Bloomberg View

Francis Wilkinson writes editorials on politics and U.S. domestic policy for Bloomberg View. Readers may email him at fwilkinson1@bloomberg.net.

Democrats oppose President Donald Trump's planned border wall. They oppose his ban, currently under revision, on Muslim refugees and travelers from seven Muslim-majority nations. They oppose his new program of expedited and expanded deportations for undocumented immigrants regardless of how long people have lived in the U.S. or how law-abiding they have been.

In each case, Democratic opposition is easily justified. The border wall is expensive folly. (Human smuggling organizations are known to possess an advanced wall-scaling technology known as a "ladder.") The Muslim ban is morally grotesque and, in terms of security, ineffective at best. Mass deportations will severely harm the American social fabric and economy while offering few compensatory benefits.

All these policies together undermine American standing in the world, making the U.S. look cruel, insecure and bumbling.

But.

Politics sometimes requires taking defensive positions, and Democrats have done a very poor job defending themselves against accusations that they support "open borders" and have no interest in controlling illegal immigration.

In the final election debate between Hillary Clinton and Trump, on Oct. 19 in Las Vegas, Fox News host Chris Wallace introduced the topic of immigration like this: "Mr. Trump, you want to build a wall. Secretary Clinton, you have offered no specific plan for how you want to secure our southern border."

Trump proceeded to use the word border, in its singular or plural form, 15 times in his answer. "Hillary wants to give amnesty," he said. "She wants to have open borders."

Clinton countered that she had "supported border security for years," but she never defined what that meant and quickly moved on. She was clearer about what she opposed: "I don't want to rip families apart. I don't want to be sending parents away from children."

Her remarks echoed a previous statement that Clinton had made in a debate with Sen. Bernie Sanders. Univision news anchor Jorge Ramos, a fierce advocate of undocumented immigrants, asked Clinton to "promise tonight that you won't deport children, children who are already here?"

Clinton responded, "I would not deport children. I do not want to deport family members, either, Jorge."

Public opinion polls generally show that majorities of Americans do not support mass deportation or a wall on the Mexican border. Americans do support deporting criminals and restricting illegal immigration.

Democrats spend very little energy affirming that they also believe in secure borders and immigration control. That's a political mistake.

"The political advantage of pro-rights positioning for the Democrats is that it has put the party at the forefront of social and cultural movements that have steadily gained public acceptance," wrote Thomas Edsall in The New York Times earlier this month. "The political disadvantage emerges when a majority of voters see the Democratic Party as too far out in front of the electorate—as the proponent of new rights that do not yet have majority support."

Democrats should continue to defend law-abiding undocumented immigrants who are under attack and continue to criticize Trump's plan for a multi-billion-dollar border boondoggle. But the best way to do that is also to espouse support for rational border security. Democrats, for example, can support a "digital wall" at the border—the array of sensors, drones, observation towers and more that is already significantly in place.

Republican Rick Perry, the former Texas governor and Trump's choice to be secretary of energy, said last summer that Trump's own border wall would be more "virtual" than physical.

"It's a wall, but it's a technological wall; it's a digital wall," Perry told journalist Peter Hamby.

Trump, however, seems locked into his construction promise and unable to wiggle out. As an obstacle to illegal immigration, a digital wall is no less imperfect than a physical wall. And it's both a lot cheaper and a lot less offensive—to Mexicans and land owners—and less detrimental to the environment.

Democrats needn't mimic Trump's xenophobia, immigrant-bashing or perpetual stoking of racial tensions to make their own more reasonable claim on border security. But they also shouldn't neglect to point out that they too understand that the nation's borders must be protected.

There is no downside to pointing that out, especially if it accompanies an impassioned defense of long-settled undocumented immigrants.

If Democrats need to be reminded why it's an important point to emphasize, they can just look to the White House. Hillary Clinton doesn't live there.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Your credit history

THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

By MICHAEL J. CYGANEK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" provides step-by-step instructions on how to request and review your credit history, and how to dispute an error.

Your credit history is important. It tells businesses how you pay your bills. Those businesses then decide if they want to give you a credit card, a job, an apartment, a loan, or insurance. Find out what is in your report. Be sure the information is correct. Fix anything that is incorrect.

How do I check my credit report?

This is easy to do by phone:

■ Call Annual Credit Report at 1-877-322-8228.

■ Answer questions from a recorded system. You have to give your address, Social Security number, and birth date.

■ Choose to ONLY show the last four numbers of your Social Security number. It is safer than showing your full Social Security number on your report.

■ Choose which credit reporting company you want a report from. (You get one free report from each company every year.)

That company mails your report to you. It should arrive about a month after.

What do I do with my credit report?

Read it carefully. Make sure the information is correct.

■ Personal information—Are the name and address correct?

■ Accounts—Do you recognize them? Is the information correct?

■ Negative information—Do you recognize the accounts in this section of the report? Is the information correct?

"To file a consumer complaint, pick up a form at the OAG or request one by email from consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org. After completing the consumer complaint, submit it by email or in-person."

■ Inquiries—Do you recognize the places you applied for credit? (If you do not, someone may have stolen your identity. You should report this right away.)

The report will tell you how to improve your credit history. Only you can improve your credit history. It will take time. But if any of the information in your report is wrong, you can ask to have it fixed.

How do I fix mistakes in my credit report?

■ Write a letter. Tell the credit reporting company that you have questions about information in your report.

■ Explain which information is wrong and why you think so.

■ Say that you want the information corrected or removed from your report.

■ Send a copy of your credit report with the wrong information circled.

■ Send copies of other papers that help you explain your opinion.

■ Send this information via certified mail. Ask the post office for a return receipt. The receipt is proof that the credit reporting company received your letter.

The credit reporting company must look into your complaint and answer you in writing.

Each week, the OAG's Consumer Protection Education Program aims to provide consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify and protect themselves from unfair trade practices and marketplace schemes. If you would like to file a consumer complaint, please pick up a form at the OAG (on Capital Hill) or request one by email from consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org. After completing the consumer complaint, please submit it by email or in-person.

We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization. We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's *man amko*, not *manamkos*

Correct me if I'm wrong, but the word *manamkos* is not a Chamorro word. There is no "s" in *man amko*. The word by itself is plural. If you›re talking about a group of elderly in English and want to use the word, then *"man amko"* should be used; however, if you want to talk about a single elderly, then *«i amko»* should be used.

I'm surprised bilingual teachers haven't spoken up about this as I've heard *"manamkos"* used by adult Chamorros as well as have the word printed with the "s" added in. PSS, take note!

Ben Taitano
via email

Thanks to lawmakers!

I read that Rep. Ed Propst, Rep. Edmund Villagomez, Sen. Sixto Igigomar, and Senate President Arnold Palacios recently initiated important bills and had them passed through the Legislature.

Rep. Propst's bill penalizes fishing by tourists as an environmental wrongdoing. Maybe, in time, a fishing license will be in place to let our tourists pay a little money and enjoy combining fishing with admiring our remarkable sceneries.

Rep. Villagomez's bill prohibits the use of cell phones when driving. It will prevent many accidents that might happen when using mobile devices. Drivers using mobile phones may lose control of the situation and keep running their vehicles, showing no respect to pedestrians, especially the elderly. A device to determine the use of cell phones while driving could be invented to help the police stop the car. We heard that devices like these are already in use to determine whether domestic violence is taking place. The device compares the picture from insides of apartment with patterns and lets the police know of a possibly hot situation.

Senate President Palacios is known as a member of the CNMI 902 team. We believe he will continue to advocate for the people of the CNMI as hard he could in both Washington, D.C. and here at home. It is said that he recently drafted a bill to solve land issues.

Mr. Palacios recently joined 76 students who graduated from a training program, underlying his priority for education. He said the training program will contribute to the islands' economy, development, and progress. It is a signal to local managers to pay more attention to promoting education.

Sen. Igisomar is reportedly collaborating with the Department of Public Works and the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality to address growing problems with solid waste management. Though it will be a long process, it would be worth it because we are talking about keeping the quality of the Marianas. It is right that this matter is among Mr. Igisomar's priorities. Also, we support the lawmaker's work with Mayor Apatang to keep Saipan nice and attractive.

We are grateful to our lawmakers' meaningful efforts to make our beautiful islands a place of prosperity, law, and order. May the Lord bless them even more!

Teddy Guaio
Navy Hill, Saipan

Learning side by side

By GREG BORJA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month! The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, and the National Disability Rights Network have created a campaign that seeks to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life, as well as barriers that people with disabilities sometimes face when connecting with the communities they live in.

This week, March 1-10, 2017, the focus is on education. Students with disabilities have the right to be educated alongside their non-disabled peers to the maximum extent possible. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or IDEA was created to assist students with disabilities reach their full potential via an Individualized Education Plan or IEP. The IEP lays out the framework in which accommodations and/or modifications are made to the curriculum in order for each individual student to succeed. We're not talking about handing out "certificates of completion in high school" but allowing students earn a high school diploma.

Students with disabilities must first become eligible for an IEP by being assessed by a Child Study Team. Should there be a need for a student to receive accommodations or modifications in order to progress in their education, an IEP Team made up of teachers, itinerant teacher, service provides, parents and, when appropriate, the student, meet to decide the goals and supports required to help the student reach those goals. A student with an IEP may be able to remain in school until their 22nd birthday.

Gone are the days when students with disabilities were all housed in one room or building. Evidence shows that many students succeed and grow as an individual when they learn side by side with other students without disabilities. Educating our students about disabilities is the first step in creating an environment in which friendships develop and all our students become successful.

For more information about Developmental Disabilities Month and/or the IEP process, contact the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. at 235-7273/4 or visit us online at www.nmpasi.org.

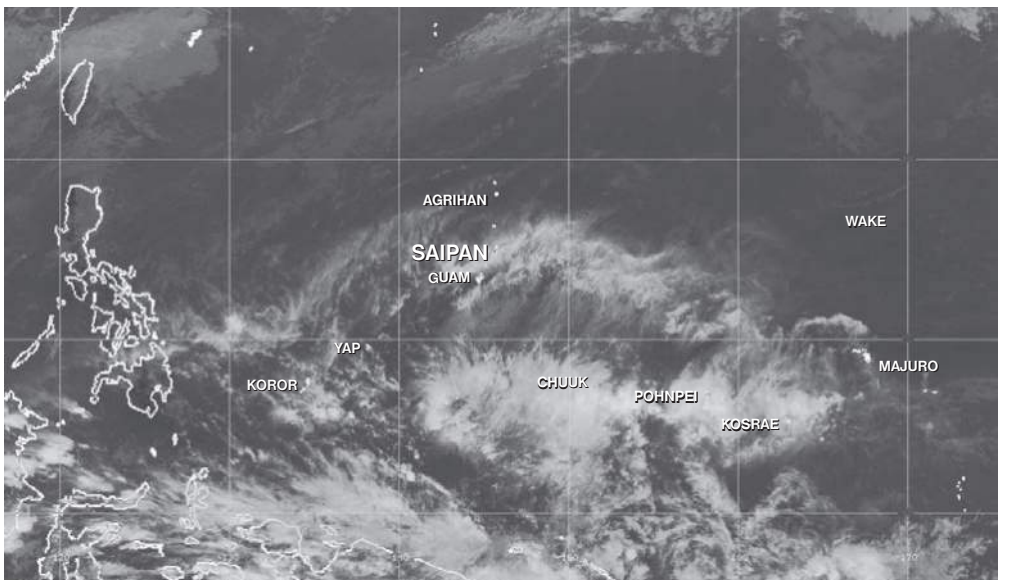
Greg Borja is a projects specialist at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:22 AM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

With the advent of March it seems shear line season has peaked, and the GFS shows this. Two new shear lines come down, however they stop around Anatahan and are no longer impacting the forecast zones. The showers we are expected to get will now be generated by trade-wind disturbances instead of shear lines. This should make it drier for a time, although there will be days that will be exceptions, like possibly Friday. Combined seas are expected to remain elevated, but below hazardous levels all through the 5 day forecast period. Trade-wind swell will be maintained along with a fluctuating north swell. No advisories are anticipated at this time.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	85 | 77 °F
Palau	Scattered thunderstorms	83 | 78 °F
Yap	Scattered thunderstorms	86 | 71 °F
Chuuk	Isolated thunderstorms	86 | 80 °F
Pohnpei	Partly cloudy skies	85 | 79 °F
Kosrae	Rain showers	85 | 79 °F
Majuro	Showers	83 | 78 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly cloudy	76 | 60 °F
Beijing	Sunny skies	58 | 29 °F
Hong Kong	A mainly sunny sky	71 | 57 °F
Honolulu	Overcast with rain showers	81 | 68 °F
London	Partly cloudy	52 | 41 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny skies	77 | 48 °F
Manila	Partly cloudy skies	88 | 75 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy skies	79 | 63 °F
Miami	Scattered thunderstorms	83 | 68 °F
New York	Partly cloudy	48 | 33 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	56 | 43 °F
Paris	Cloudy	49 | 26 °F
Pusan	Cloudy	56 | 36 °F
Rome	Sunshine and clouds mixed	60 | 46 °F
Salem	Cloudy skies	49 | 44 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	60 | 44 °F
Seoul	Clear skies	46 | 23 °F
Tokyo	Light rain	55 | 43 °F
Washington, DC	Sunny	51 | 35 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:12 AM	LOW TIDE	0.23
10:17 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.0
4:49 PM	LOW TIDE	0.32
10:40 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.82

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:33 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	6:31 AM	6:25 PM
Monday	6:31 AM	6:25 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:10 AM	9:50 PM	-
Friday	9:58 AM	10:49 PM	-
Saturday	10:48 AM	11:48 PM	-
Sunday	11:40 AM	-	-
Monday	-	12:47 AM	12:35 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	1:40am	5:00am	1, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6 via MNL
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

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TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Asia

Billions for border, cuts elsewhere

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump wants billions of dollars to start building a wall at the Mexican border and fund efforts to find, jail and deport immigrants in the country illegally, according to White House budget documents The Associated Press obtained on Tuesday.

The Office and Management and Budget's financial outline for the Department of Homeland Security also calls on the Coast Guard to scrap the agency's counterterrorism Maritime Security Response Team, and all of its Maritime Safety and Security Teams. The rationale for the elimination of the programs isn't spelled out. Trump has made fighting terrorism a top priority and his overall budget outline calls for significant increases in military spending.

The Homeland Security budget outline includes money to start hiring new immigration and border agents. It largely adheres to Trump's promises to bolster security at the Mexican border and crack down on illegal immigration in the United States.

The Department of Homeland Security declined to comment on the documents, which are labeled "pre-decisional" and "not for public release," referring questions to the White House. The White House didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Trump's overall budget blueprint seeks a $54 billion surge in U.S. military spending for new aircraft, ships and fighters. It also slashes big chunks from domestic programs and foreign aid to make the government "do more with less." Trump's first budget is due in more detail to Congress next month. "Topline" figures were released Monday, a day before Trump addresses a joint session of Congress.

If Congress ultimately approves Trump's budget plans, Homeland Security would see an overall budget increase of about $2.7 billion to roughly $44 billion. That would include nearly $2 billion more for Immigration and Customs Enforcement's efforts in locating, arresting and deporting immigrants in the country illegally.

Under President Barack Obama's last budget, the government had about $3 billion for that task. That included money to jail 34,000 people at any given time. Obama's immigration authorities deported about 240,000 people during the 2016 budget year that ended in September. Trump has said he intends to increase deportations.

Though the Coast Guard became part of the civilian Homeland Security Department after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the agency is treated as a branch of the military.

According to the Coast Guard's government website, the Maritime Security Response Team is a "highly specialized resource with advanced counterterrorism skills and tactics." Scrapping the team, the budget documents show, would save the government about $43 million.

Netflix CEO: Co-workers were affected by Trump travel ban

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Netflix employees were personally affected by U.S. President Donald Trump's attempt to ban people entering from seven Muslim countries, the company's CEO said Tuesday.

Reed Hastings has been a critic of the temporary travel ban, which Trump hopes to revive in a revised form this week, and told The Associated Press on Tuesday that some of his co-workers had gotten caught up in it.

"We had Iranian and Iraqi employees who were unable to come to work," he said on the sidelines of the Mobile World Congress, the wireless industry's biggest annual gathering held in Barcelona, Spain.

Netflix was among dozens of tech companies that publicly opposed the travel ban out of fear that it would stifle innovation.

U.S. politics has become as gripping as a TV drama but Hastings says that Netflix, the distributor of the show "House of Cards," is not planning a show based on Trump.

"Maybe someday, but it's better to make a show about things in the past so you can have some perspective," he said. "We let the news channels do the things that are current, while hoping to provide a relief from politics to people on both sides."

One of Netflix's biggest hits has been "House of Cards," a fictional show about the ruthlessness of politics in Washington that it first distributed in 2013, well before Trump's rise to power.

Hastings aims to make Netflix even more global, including by creating more original content in foreign languages.

"We are focused on international expansion, mainly in Europe and Asia," Hastings said. "It's just the beginning of the Internet. We are producing all over the globe with great success, now also in Spain, France, Germany, the U.K., Turkey, India, and even Japan, with anime shows."

Netflix, which has some 93 million subscribers across 190 countries, is riding the success of some of its own productions, having won its first ever Oscar this week for the documentary "White Helmets," about Syria's humanitarian aid force.

Hastings expects the market competition to toughen, however, with traditional broadcasters increasingly moving online especially with the gradual improvement of handset screens and connections.

"I think broadcast television is really going to move to the Internet, so that current TV networks will offer their videos online, just the same as Netflix and YouTube."

The improvements in wireless 4G and 5G technology is likely to encourage the trend of people watching movies on mobile screens. People can break up their viewing during commutes or lunch hours, personalizing the time in which they consumer entertainment.

Apple's iPhone may be mature, but it's still bearing fruit

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP)—The Apple of today hasn't yet shown much indication of emulating its co-founder Steve Jobs and his streak of world-changing products, but it's still proving to be a tough act to beat.

The main reason: Before Jobs died in 2011, he left behind the iPhone—a product with such a devout following that it will likely spin off billions in profit for the foreseeable future. Even if Apple fails to come up with "the next iPhone," whatever that might be.

Apples shares already have climbed by nearly 20 percent during the first two months of the year, lifting its stock to record highs.

The recent gains helped foster a mostly upbeat gathering of shareholders Tuesday during Apple's annual meeting at its Cupertino, California, headquarters.

World

Trump is finally 'presidential'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Heralding a "new chapter of American greatness," President Donald Trump issued a broad call for overhauling the nation's health care system and significantly boosting military spending Tuesday night, swapping his trademark pugnaciousness and personal insults for a more restrained tone as he addressed Congress for the first time.

AP

President Donald Trump gestures as he addresses a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017.

In an appeal to American optimism, Trump declared, "The time for small thinking is over." Still, he employed dark language to describe the threat posed by "radical Islamic terrorism"—a term his own national security adviser rejects as inflammatory—and warned against "reckless" and "uncontrolled entry" of refugees and immigrants from countries with ties to extremist groups.

Trump's overall message on immigration, one of his signature campaign issues, was unexpectedly mixed. He said he believed that "real and positive immigration reform is possible" and had suggested to news anchors earlier that he was open to legislation that could provide a pathway to legal status for some of the millions of people living in the U.S. illegally.

In his hour-long address, Trump defended his early actions in office and ignored the missteps that have set even his allies in Washington on edge. He outlined a populist agenda centered on promises to compel companies to bring manufacturing jobs back to the U.S. He was unusually measured and embraced the pomp and tradition of a presidential address to Congress.

The president was greeted by enthusiastic applause as he entered the House chamber, though it was filled with Democrats who vigorously oppose his policies and many Republicans who never expected him to be elected. Most Republican lawmakers have rallied around him since the election, hopeful that he will act on the domestic priorities they saw blocked during President Barack Obama's eight years in office.

Topping that list is undoing Obama's signature health care law and replacing the sweeping measure. Trump offered a basic blueprint of his priorities, including ensuring that those with pre-existing conditions have access to coverage, allowing people to buy insurance across state lines and offering tax credits and expanded health savings accounts to help Americans purchase coverage. He suggested he would get rid of the current law's requirement that all Americans carry insurance coverage, saying that "mandating every American to buy government-approved health insurance was never the right solution for America."

Making a direct appeal for bipartisanship, Trump turned to Democrats and said, "Why not join forces to finally get the job done and get it done right?"

Democrats, now firmly ensconced in the minority, sat silently while Republicans stood and cheered. Some wore blue, pro-health care buttons that read "Protect our care," and dozens of Democratic women wore white in honor of the suffrage movement.

Delivering Democrats' formal response after the speech, former Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear accused Trump of planning to "rip affordable health insurance" from Americans and being "Wall Street's champion."

Trump was vague in his call for tax reform, another Republican priority. He promised "massive tax relief for the middle class" and a reduction in corporate tax rates, but glossed over how he would offset the cuts.

The president also urged Congress to pass a $1 trillion infrastructure package financed through both public and private capital.

"The time has come for a new program of national rebuilding," he said.

First lady Melania Trump sat with special guests who were on hand to amplify the president's agenda, including the family members of people killed by immigrants living in the U.S. illegally. The widow of former Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia also sat alongside Mrs. Trump, a reminder of the president's well-received nomination of federal appeals court Judge Neil Gorsuch to fill Scalia's seat.

The majority of Trump's address centered on the domestic, economic-focused issues that were at the center of his presidential campaign. His national security message centered largely on a call for significantly boosting military spending and taking strong but unspecified measures to protect the nation from "radical Islamic terrorism."

Underscoring the human cost of those efforts, Trump honored Chief Special Warrant Officer William "Ryan" Owens, who was killed in a raid in Yemen during his first days in office. Owens' widow, Carryn, sat in the guest box with tears streaming down her face as the crowd stood and applauded at length.

Owens' death, as well as the killing of several civilians, have raised questions about the effectiveness of the raid. Owens' father, Bill, has refused to meet with Trump, has called for an investigation into the raid's planning and has criticized the administration for its timing.

Pushing back against the criticism, the president said Defense Secretary Jim Mattis had assured him that the operation generated "large amounts of vital intelligence that will lead to many more victories in the future against our enemies."

Trump also voiced support for NATO but reiterated his call for partner countries to meet their financial obligations to the military alliance. Trump has previously called NATO "obsolete," setting some allies on edge about his commitment to the partnership.

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Asia

Nerve agent attack suspects charged with murder

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Appearing calm and solemn, two young women accused of smearing VX nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam, the estranged half brother of North Korea's leader, were charged with murder Wednesday.

The women, who arrived in court under the protection of masked special forces carrying machine guns, are at the center of a bizarre killing at a busy Kuala Lumpur airport terminal. Many speculate the attack was orchestrated by North Korea, but Pyongyang denies any role.

"I understand but I am not guilty," Vietnamese suspect Doan Thi Huong told the court in English after the murder charge was read. She looked briefly at the public gallery as she was led out and bowed her head.

The other suspect, Indonesian Siti Aisyah, nodded as her translator told her: "You are accused of murdering a North Korean man at the departure hall" of Kuala Lumpur International Airport. She was dressed in a red T-shirt and jeans.

The women did not enter pleas because the magistrate court where they appeared has no jurisdiction over a murder case. Lead prosecutor Iskander Ahmad told the court he will ask for the case to be transferred to a higher court and for both women to be tried together.

Each faces a mandatory death sentence if convicted. Both women were wearing bulletproof vests as they were escorted from the court to Kajang Prison.

Kim Jong Nam was attacked as he waited for his flight home to Macau on Feb. 13. He died shortly after two women went up behind him and wiped something onto his face.

Both women have reportedly said they thought they were part of a prank TV show playing harmless tricks on unsuspecting passengers. Aisyah told authorities she was paid the equivalent of $90.

The attack was caught on grainy airport surveillance video; Huong was seen clearly in a T-shirt with "LOL" emblazoned across the front.

Gooi Soon Seng, Aisyah's lawyer, spoke to his client for the first time Wednesday.

"Her eyes were red and she says she's innocent," he said.

NKorea official in Beijing after China's ban on coal imports

BEIJING (AP)—A senior North Korean diplomat arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for talks following China's ban on coal imports from its neighbor and the killing of the exiled half brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Vice Foreign Minister Ri Kil Song will hold talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on "issues of common concern," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a daily news briefing.

Last week, China suspended all coal imports from North Korea for the rest of the year as it steps up pressure on its once-close Communist ally to give up its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

China is North Korea's largest source of trade and aid, and the move deprives the North of an important source of foreign currency. Beijing wants the U.S. in return to restart long-stalled negotiations with North Korea to ease regional tensions.

In Washington, Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi met Tuesday with U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, and they discussed "areas of mutual concern, including North Korea's nuclear programs," the State Department said. Yang, a top foreign policy adviser, is the first senior Chinese official to visit the U.S. since President Donald Trump took power five weeks ago. Yang met the president Monday.

Angered by Kim's defiance of U.N. resolutions against North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile programs, China has been ratcheting up its enforcement of punitive U.N. sanctions while urging dialogue between the sides.

China's tough line drew an unusual critique last week from North Korea's state-run news agency, which suggested that Beijing's suspension of coal imports and criticism of a recent North Korean missile test amounted to an enemy state "dancing to the tune of the U.S."

ASIAN BRIEFS

IS using more suicide vehicles and armed drones in Mosul

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's defense chief says Islamic State fighters are increasing the use of Mad Max-style suicide vehicles and commercial drones armed with grenades in their defense of the Iraqi town of Mosul. Australian Defense Force Chief Mark Binskin on Wednesday likened the vehicles used by the Islamic State group against Iraqi government troops to those featured in the George Miller-directed post-apocalyptic movie franchise. Binskin also told a Senate committee the militants are more commonly using publicly-available drones armed with grenades and other small weapons over the urban environment of west Mosul. Iraqi forces launched the push to take the western half of Mosul from the Islamic State group last week. Australia provides fighter jets to the U.S.-led coalition that supports Iraq troops.

Pakistani court frees man sentenced to death for blasphemy

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani court freed an Islamic preacher who was sentenced to death four years ago on charges of blasphemy, a defense lawyer said Tuesday. Chaudhry Mehmood Akhtar said that a judge in the city of Rawalpindi acquitted Mohammad Ishaq on Friday after finding him "completely innocent" of insulting Islam. Ishaq was custodian at a shrine in Punjab province when he was arrested and sentenced to death in 2013 after a citizen accused him of claiming in conversation to actually be God. "My client is a practicing Muslim and he was a victim of false charges. Now I am doing the paperwork to get him out of a jail," Akhtar told The Associated Press.

Deported Singaporean says UK treated her 'like a terrorist'

SINGAPORE (AP)—A Singaporean grandmother who was deported from Britain because her immigration status had lapsed said Tuesday that police treated her "like a terrorist" before putting her on a plane back to Asia. Irene Clennell, 53, was removed from Britain on Sunday after being sent to an immigration detention center. "I'm a tiny person and two of the officers were holding my hand, like I'm going to run away or something, like a terrorist," she told The Associated Press in Singapore. "It was quite embarrassing." Clennell arrived in Britain in 1988, married two years later and has two adult sons and a granddaughter. She and her husband lived in the north of the country.

World

Fake fashion fuels vast illicit profits, sea of human misery

LONDON (AP)—In a warehouse at London's sprawling Heathrow Airport, a border officer pulls open a cardboard box he suspects contains contraband goods. Bingo—his instincts are rewarded.

AP

In this Wednesday. Feb. 22, 2017 photo, seized counterfeit items, including a fake Nike high heeled shoe, are displayed to be photographed at UK Border Force offices in London.

The box is packed with beige and black sneakers that to the untrained eye look identical to the limited edition Adidas Yeezy Boost, designed by rap star Kanye West, which sold out within minutes of being released last year and now have a resale value many times their original retail price.

In the past five years, the Border Force, the policing command under Britain's Home Office charged with immigration and customs controls, has seized thousands of consignments at Heathrow alone, valued at around £100 million ($125 million), said Peter Herron, senior officer for specialist operations. "Anything a counterfeiter can counterfeit, they will."

Annual trade in fake products was worth $461 billion in 2013, around 2.5 percent of total global trade, according to Piotr Stryszowski, an economist with the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The money goes to organized crime, and helps fund terrorism and the trafficking of drugs, people, sex and wildlife, as well as the lavish lifestyles of its kingpins.

"It's the globalized illicit business of the 21st century," says Stryszowski, who laments it's not taken as seriously as other contraband, such as cocaine.

Consumers may see fakes as "fun" and feel clever to buy sunglasses or sneakers that look like the real thing but cost a fraction of the price.

The reality, however, is anything but fun for the workers, many of them children, who toil in appalling, often slave-like conditions in secret factories making fake products for gang bosses who, Stryszowski says, "have no ethics and no respect for the law."

It's this human cost that makes counterfeit goods one of the most insidiously dangerous criminal activities in the world today.

London-based intellectual property lawyer Mary Bagnall describes scenes of horror—children chained to sewing machines; people locked in underground factories in remote corners of China—that characterize an industry so lucrative yet so low-risk that some crime gangs are getting out of the drugs and people-trafficking businesses and into fakes.

UN defends refugee vetting as Trump mulls revised entry ban

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—In an office cubicle at the U.N. refugee agency, a Syrian woman and her three daughters took turns staring into a camera for iris scans. Their biometric registration, a first step toward possible resettlement in the West, is to be followed by interviews and background checks that can take months or even years.

The 31-year-old part-time hairdresser, who fled to Jordan in 2014 after her husband went missing in Syria's civil war, feels fortunate. But the long road ahead for many Syrian refugees could grow even more arduous if U.S. President Donald Trump fulfils campaign vows to impose "extreme vetting."

Many of the 5 million Syrian refugees who scratch out a living in overwhelmed neighboring states such as Jordan aren't necessarily candidates for a rare slot in the resettlement program. Priority is given to the most vulnerable, including women heading households, medical patients and victims of torture.

Still, the vetting process has come under intense scrutiny since Trump took office.

A week after his inauguration, Trump suspended refugee admissions, arguing that the displaced pose a potential terrorism threat and that his administration needs time to impose more stringent vetting procedures. A federal judge blocked the order, but Trump has said a new version will be announced soon.

U.S. involvement in refugee resettlement is bound to shrink this year, even if a new executive order softens earlier provisions, such as the open-ended ban on the entry of displaced Syrians.

Trump has announced that he is reducing the U.S. limit for taking in refugees from all over the world from 110,000 to 50,000 a year, leaving even fewer spots for refugees from the conflict-scarred Middle East.

The U.S. has been a leading resettlement destination, taking in about half of the 20,000 refugees, most of them Syrians, who left to the West from Jordan in 2016, said Daniela Cicchella, a senior refugee agency official in Jordan.

Cicchella described the vetting as stringent, but said all involved are open to ways of improving it.

The program is "one of the most scrutinized" ways of entering the United States, Cicchella said during a tour of the vetting area at the agency headquarters in Jordan's capital.

"We have been working very closely with different countries, including with the U.S. authorities, in the last years," she said.

Trump's initial order asked officials to review the refugee approval process in search of possible security loopholes, but did not say what additional vetting he wants to see.

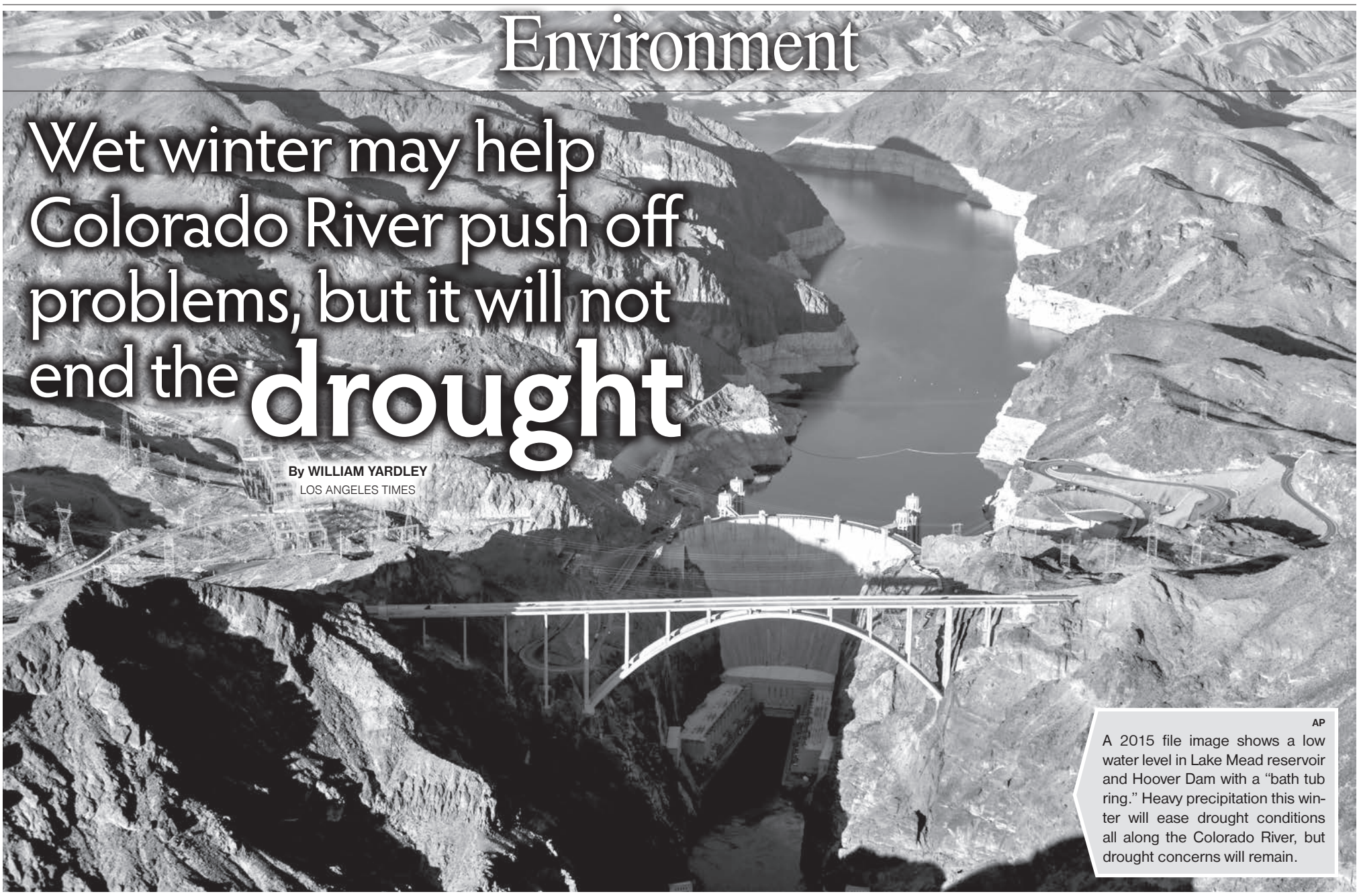
For now, the process includes in-person interviews during which refugees provide information about families, friendships, social or political activities, employment, phone numbers and email accounts.

They also provide biometric information, including fingerprints, and federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies are consulted for background checks. Syrians are subject to additional classified checks. Their vetting can take up to two years.

Environment

Wet winter may help Colorado River push off problems, but it will not end the drought

By WILLIAM YARDLEY
LOS ANGELES TIMES



AP
A 2015 file image shows a low water level in Lake Mead reservoir and Hoover Dam with a "bath tub ring." Heavy precipitation this winter will ease drought conditions all along the Colorado River, but drought concerns will remain.

California is not the only place in the West confronting startling amounts of rain and snow.

Drought conditions have declined substantially across the region in recent weeks, with heavy storms replenishing reservoirs and piling fresh powder on ski resorts.

Yet there is one place where the precipitation has been particularly welcome and could be transformative: the Colorado River basin, which provides water to nearly 40 million people across seven states.

"We're in a really good spot as far as snow accumulations," said Malcolm Wilson, who leads the Bureau of Reclamation's water resources group in the upper Colorado River basin.

In fact, if the Rocky Mountains continue to see substantial snowfall this winter, there is a chance that later this year, water managers for the Colorado could do something that seemed inconceivable just a few weeks ago: They could start giving water away.

Under federal guidelines that kick in when water flows reach certain volumes, the Bureau of Reclamation, which oversees the river basin's largest reservoirs, Lake Powell and Lake Mead, could release enough water from the former to raise the elevation of the latter by 20 feet or more — providing a remarkable shot in the arm for a lake that has been declining steadily during a devastating drought that started in 2000.

The process—lowering one reservoir to lift another—is called equalization, and a few weeks ago, it was not even viewed as a viable option. Now, Wilson said, "It's in the realm of possibility."

Even if that optimistic scenario does not play out — the region would need several more weeks of strong precipitation without a substantial warmup — there is still reason to savor a moment of relief on the Colorado.

As of last month, the bureau was forecasting about a 50 percent chance that, for the first time, the river and its reservoirs would not be able to fulfill the water demands of states that rely on it, beginning in 2018.

But this week, the bureau quietly updated that forecast, saying the chance was only about 34 percent. By the end of this year, it expects Lake Mead to be at least 3 feet above the threshold at which an official "shortage" would be declared.

Not only that, the bureau said the likelihood of a shortage through 2021 is no greater than 33 percent. Just a few weeks ago, the chances of shortages in that time frame were about 60 percent.

Still, no one is declaring this the end of a drought that has fallowed farm fields, depleted groundwater and even inspired a dystopian novel, "The Water Knife," from 2015, which imagines the Southwest descending into crime and chaos as people fight over the shrinking Colorado.

While California has been climbing out of its drought — albeit the hard way, with brutal storms, mudslides and a mass evacuation ordered earlier below the damaged Oroville Dam spillway — the drought on the Colorado may never truly end.

That is because no matter how deep the snowpack may get one year — some drainages are seeing close to 200 percent of normal this year — the river itself functions at what its managers call a "structural deficit." The amount of water to which cities, tribes, farmers and others have legal rights is larger than the amount that, on average, flows into the system. In addition, climate change models for the future show declining snowpack and rising temperatures, potentially leading to more evaporation.

That all means that delicate negotiations that have been underway to get the seven states which use the water — Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming — to increase the amount of water they conserve are still crucial.

The effort, called the drought contingency plan, has been going on for several years, though negotiations intensified in 2016. The idea is to add a layer of voluntary conservation measures to prevent Lake Mead from falling below 1,075 feet, the level that triggers more painful, involuntary conservation measures.

Water managers had hoped to reach an agreement by the end of the Obama administration but ran into challenges resolving concerns among agricultural and other interests within individual states, particularly in Arizona and California.

Now, some water managers worry they may face a new challenge: that the wet winter may reduce the sense of urgency to complete the drought contingency plan.

"It potentially makes it harder, to tell you the truth," said Tom Buschatzke, the head of the Arizona Department of Water Resources, who is trying to build support for the plan among the state's competing interests, "because sometimes crisis mode drives outcomes."

Buschatzke noted that 2011 was also a very wet year, with strong snowpack, but less than four years later, water managers were again preparing for the possibility of a shortage. The Colorado provides 41 percent of Arizona's water.

"We need to make sure the wet winter doesn't stop the momentum we've built," he said. "Mother Nature does not bail us out."

The drought and the recent deluges demonstrate how the region's water issues are connected. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California relies on the Colorado for about 45 percent of its water on average, but during the drought, the Colorado has provided as much as 90 percent of the utility's water.

The recent heavy rain in California has changed the balance again, allowing the utility to leave more water in Lake Mead, which helps the rest of the basin guard against a shortage.

"For the last four years, it was all about where can we get extra water," said Bill Hasencamp, who manages Colorado River resources for the Metropolitan Water District. "Now, all of a sudden in the last six weeks, it's a completely different mindset. We're storing as much water as we can in Lake Mead, storing it in our desert groundwater account, storing it in every reservoir account we have."

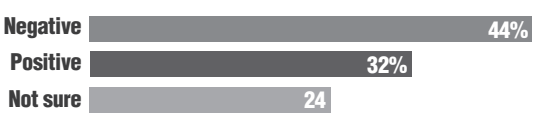
Hasencamp said the improvement in short-term forecasts for the Colorado could make it easier for California to approve the drought contingency plan, in part because the state's water rights already make it least likely to suffer major cuts.

Besides, he noted, the plan is merely a temporary fix, one that may not have to be implemented if Lake Mead improves for a few years. The truly complex negotiations will begin in 2020 for what is supposed to be a long-term solution.

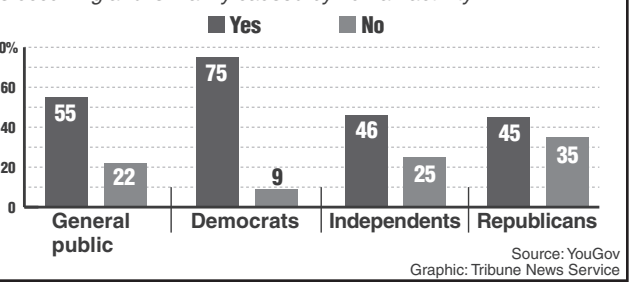
"Lake Mead is like going to Vegas," Hasencamp said. "You might win a couple of times. You might even hit a jackpot. But in the end, the odds are stacked against you."

Trump and the environment

Do you think the Trump administration will have a positive or negative impact on the environment?



To the best of your knowledge, do you think there is a consensus in the scientific community that climate change is occurring and is mainly caused by human activity?



Source: YouGov
Graphic: Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Barack and Michelle Obama have book deals

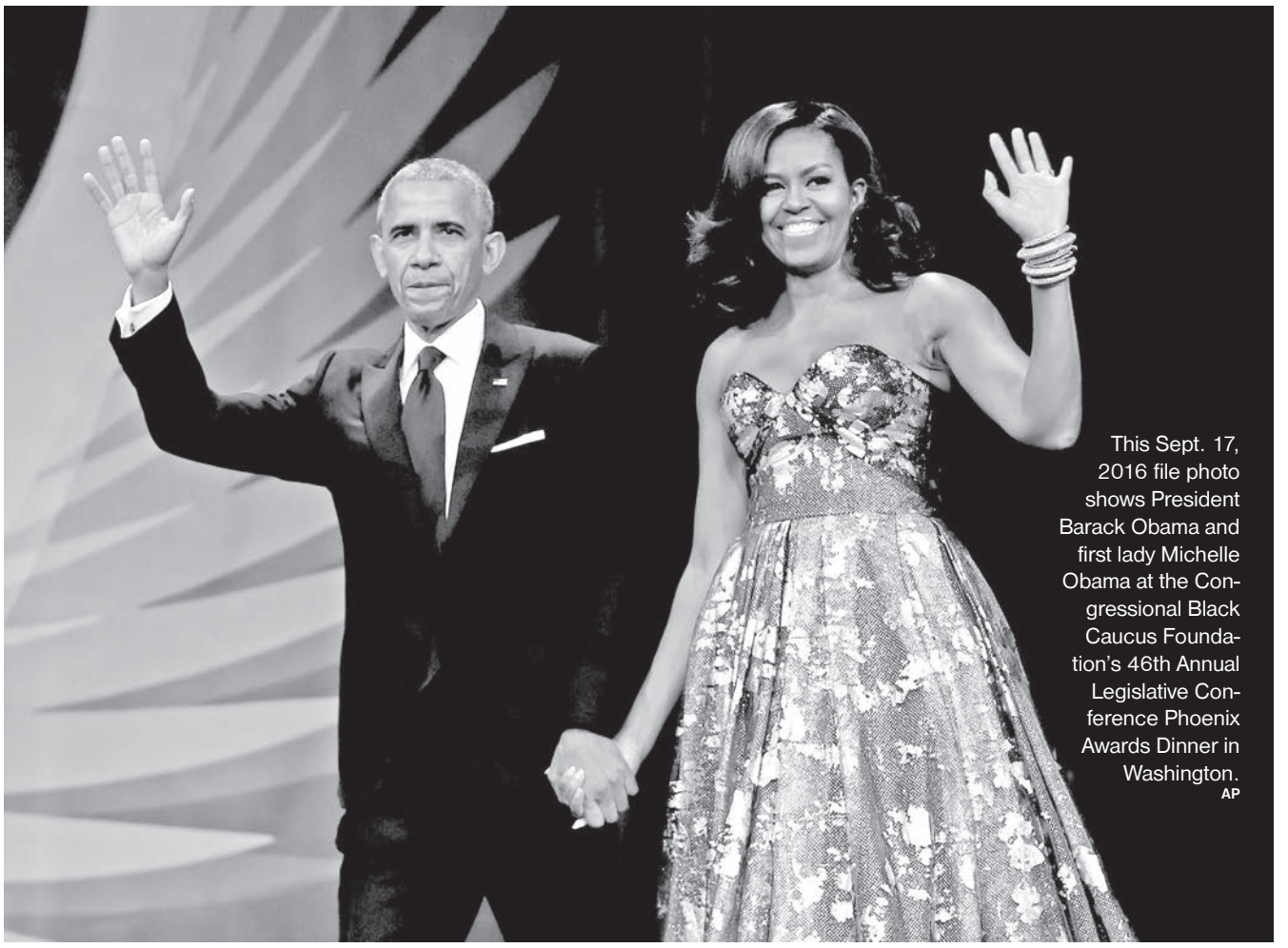
NEW YORK (AP)—Barack and Michelle Obama have book deals.

The former president and first lady have signed with Penguin Random House, the publisher announced Tuesday. Financial terms were not disclosed for the books, which several publishers had competed for, although the deals are likely in the tens of millions of dollars.

Both Obamas have published through Crown, a Penguin Random House imprint. But Penguin Random House declined comment on which imprint or imprints the books would be released through.

"We are absolutely thrilled to continue our publishing partnership with President and Mrs. Obama," Penguin Random House CEO Markus Dohle said in a statement.

"With their words and their leadership, they changed the world, and every day, with the books we publish at Penguin Random House, we strive to do the same. Now, we are very much looking forward to working together with President and Mrs. Obama to make each of their books global publishing events of unprecedented scope and significance."



This Sept. 17, 2016 file photo shows President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 46th Annual Legislative Conference Phoenix Awards Dinner in Washington. AP

The Obamas were represented in negotiations by Robert Barnett and Deneen Howell of Williams & Connolly. Barnett has worked on deals with Barack Obama's two immediate predecessors, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, and with Michelle Obama's predecessors Hillary Rodham Clinton and Laura Bush.

The Obamas plans to donate a "significant portion" of their author proceeds to charity, including to the Obama Foundation. Barack Obama's book is a strong contender to attract the largest advance for any ex-president; the previous record is believed to be $15 million for Bill Clinton's "My Life."

The unique dual arrangement announced Tuesday is for books that are among the most anticipated in memory from a former president and first lady. Barack Obama is widely regarded as one of the finest prose stylists among modern presidents, and his million-selling "Dreams from My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope" are considered essential to his rise to the White House. Michelle Obama has given few details about her time as first lady: Her only book is about food and gardening, "American Grown," released in 2012. Both Obamas are widely popular with the public in the U.S. and abroad.

Titles and release dates were not immediately available. The books will reflect on the Obamas' White House years, although Penguin Random House declined to give further details. A publishing official with knowledge of the negotiations said that Barack Obama's book will be a straightforward memoir about his presidency, while Michelle Obama plans to write an inspirational work for young people that will draw upon her life story.

The official was not authorized to discuss the negotiations and asked not to be identified.

Presidential memoirs have contributed little to the literary canon, a tradition many believe Barack Obama will change. But recent books have found large audiences: Clinton's "My Life" and George W. Bush's "Decision Points" were million sellers. Books by first ladies, including Hillary Clinton's "Living History," have been dependable best-sellers.

Was president, an enemy of anonymous sources, one himself?

NEW YORK (AP)—Less than a week after President Donald Trump publicly attacked journalists for using anonymous sources in stories about his administration, it appears the president become one himself on Tuesday—at least briefly.

Three television anchors, shortly after attending from a White House lunch meeting with the president, emerged to report news on the president's belief that the time may be right for immigration reform. Fox News Channel's Bret Baier, and CNN's Wolf Blitzer and Jake Tapper, attributed the news to a "senior administration official." ABC's George Stephanopoulos, in a tweet, sourced it to a "WH official."

After being asked about the apparent contradiction, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said in an email that "the president's comments on that subject are on the record."

And minutes after that, ABC's David Muir, who was also in the meeting, posted a story on the network's web site quoting Trump by name saying the president had told news anchors and correspondents at the White House lunch that "the time is right for an immigration bill, as long as there is compromise on both sides."

The episode illustrated the administration's difficulties in squaring a longtime practice of anonymous sourcing in Washington politics and journalism with the president's anger at stories that displeased him. Trump has decried "fake news" and called journalists "enemies of the people." Friday, in a speech before a conference of conservatives, he said that reporters "shouldn't be allowed to use sources unless they use somebody's name. Let their name be put out there."

It's not unusual for presidents to invite journalists for private meetings like Tuesday's lunch before a major speech, like Trump's before Congress on Tuesday. In the past, they have been considered off the record—meaning nothing said at the meeting could be reported publicly.

Before Trump publicly became the source of the immigration news, a White House official acknowledged to The Associated Press that it came from the meeting with news anchors. The AP was not included in the meeting.

Fox News' Chris Wallace, who was also in the meeting, reported on Shepard Smith's afternoon show that he saw a "kinder, gentler Donald Trump" during the lunch.

"It was in this context that a senior administration official said that the president thinks that the time was right for immigration reform," Wallace said. "That came as kind of a surprise."

After some more discussion of nuggets from the "senior administration official," Smith couldn't take it anymore.

"So they give us anonymous sources after they rail at us for using anonymous sources?" he said. "That is hilarious."

Replied Wallace: "Don't shoot the messenger, Shep."

Beatty urges academy president to clarify Oscar fiasco

NEW YORK (AP)—Warren Beatty says Academy of Motion Pictures President Cheryl Boone Isaacs should "publicly clarify" what happened during Sunday night's best picture presentation "as soon as possible."

Beatty released a statement Tuesday to The Associated Press in which he declined to comment further on the debacle that led to him and co-presenter Faye Dunaway mistakenly reading "La La Land" as best picture winner rather than "Moonlight." Instead, he urged the academy to answer questions.

"I feel it would be more appropriate for the president of the Academy, Cheryl Boone Isaacs, to publicly clarify what happened as soon as possible," said Beatty.

Representatives for the academy didn't immediately comment Tuesday.

Since Sunday's broadcast, the academy has largely left the explaining to PwC, the accounting firm that has taken the blame for the "La La Land" mistakenly being read as the best picture winner by Beatty and Faye Dunaway. PwC, which is in charge of tabulating the winners, has said partner Brian Cullinan mistakenly handed them the wrong envelope.

The film academy didn't release a statement of its own until late Monday.

"We deeply regret the mistakes that were made during the presentation of the best picture category during last night's Oscar ceremony," it read. "We apologize to the entire cast and crew of 'La La Land' and 'Moonlight' whose experience was profoundly altered by this error. We salute the tremendous grace they displayed under the circumstances. To all involved?—?including our presenters Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway, the filmmakers, and our fans watching worldwide?—?we apologize."

On Monday, the academy said it has spent Sunday night and the following day "investigating the circumstances" and "will determine what actions are appropriate going forward."

Others were coming to Beatty's defense, including his older sister, Shirley MacLaine.

"They have to get their act together," MacLaine said during an interview with the AP for her upcoming film, "The Last Word." ''I thought it was just really, really terrible. I couldn't imagine what he must have been feeling. I'm still basically processing it because it was in front of so many people."

Neither PwC or the academy has commented on whether Cullinan's use of social media was a factor in the error. The PwC partner tweeted a behind-the-scenes photo of best-actress winner Emma Stone moments before the best picture announcement. The tweet was later deleted.

As per protocol, Cullinan and PwC colleague Martha Ruiz toted briefcases to the awards via the red carpet, each holding an identical set of envelopes for the show's 24 categories. During the telecast, the accountants were stationed in the Dolby Theatre wings, one stage left and one stage right, to give presenters their category's envelope before they went on stage.

Bright like a diamond: Harvard honors Rihanna's philanthropy

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Grammy Award-winning singer Rihanna finally "made it to Harvard" to be honored as the university's 2017 Humanitarian of the Year.

She received a standing ovation as she accepted the award on Tuesday.

"So I made it to Harvard," she said, flipping her long ponytail and striking a pose as the crowd erupted into cheers. "Never thought I'd be able to say that in my life. But it feels good."

The university says it chose Rihanna for her involvement in a number of charitable causes. She built a state-of-the-art center for oncology and nuclear medicine to diagnose and treat breast cancer in her home nation, Barbados.

Rihanna, whose songs include "Work" and "Diamonds," also supports the Global Partnership for Education and Global Citizen Project, providing children with access to education in more than 60 developing countries. She created the Clara Lionel Foundation scholarship program, named for her grandparents, for students from the Caribbean who attend college in the U.S.

Previous winners of the award include actor James Earl Jones and activist Malala Yousafzai.

AP

Singer Rihanna, left, is presented with the 2017 Harvard University Humanitarian of the Year Award by Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation, right, during ceremonies at the school, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017, in Cambridge, Mass.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Gymnast Olga Korbut's gold medal from 1972 Games nets $66K

How much is a 1972 gold medal won by Soviet gymnast Olga Korbut worth? According to a recent auction, $66,000. Korbut let go of five of her medals, including the gold she won in team competition in 1972. Heritage Auctions said in a release Tuesday her 1976 gold was auctioned for more than $57,000 last weekend. Korbut, nicknamed "The Sparrow from Minsk," sprang onto the Olympic scene by performing acrobatics no one had seen before. She won three golds and a silver as a 17-year-old at the 1972 Munich Games, and added a gold and silver at Montreal in 1976. Korbut, who lives in Arizona, says she sold her medals to share her Olympic experiences, not because she is in any sort of financial crisis.

Lady Gaga to headline Coachella in place of Beyonce

INDIO, Calif. (AP)—Attention Little Monsters: Lady Gaga is coming to Coachella. The diva announced Tuesday night she will be performing at the music festival for both weekends in April. Gaga will take the headlining spot that had been Beyonce's; pregnant with twins, the superstar announced last week that her doctors recommended she bow out. She rescheduled her performance for next year. Gaga is set to launch her "Joanne" world tour this summer, so Coachella will be a warm-up for her of sorts. She may have given fans a sneak peak of what to expect with her Super Bowl performance in February. Besides Gaga, other performers at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, California, include Radiohead and Kendrick Lamar.

Bush promotes new book, reflects on painting and the press

NEW YORK (AP)—Former President George W. Bush says he didn't intend to criticize President Donald Trump when he said recently that a free press is essential to democracy

Speaking by telephone Tuesday with The Associated Press, Bush said he was simply responding to a reporter's question about the role of journalism. Trump has referred to the press as the "enemy of the people," but Bush said that it's important to hold those in power "to account," adding that power can be "very corrupting" and that it was dangerous to "fall in love" with power or fame or money.

He called his own relationship with the media "symbiotic," with the media needing a story and the president needing to get his message out.

"I understood people were trying to do their job," he said. "There were moments when I (was) irritated and wanted to tell so-and-so that they missed a story. But I don't look back and say, 'This was a terrible part of my presidency.'"

Bush, 70, is promoting his new book, "Portraits of Courage," a volume of his paintings of military veterans. The book, officially published Tuesday and No. 1 on Amazon.com, arrives at a time when Bush—highly unpopular when he left office in 2009—is enjoying favorable attention from both Democrats and Republicans for views on the media, immigration and Muslims that are far more moderate than those of Trump.

But the former president, who refrained from commenting on Democrat Barack Obama's administration, said he intends to do the same with fellow Republican Trump.

"I understand people interpreting my remarks," he says, "and that's why I don't give a lot of remarks."

These days, he is happy to paint, and to talk about painting and the veterans he has befriended. As he wrote in the introduction to "Portraits of Courage," he first thought of taking up painting when the historian John Lewis Gaddis told him in 2012 about an essay by Winston Churchill called "Painting as a Pastime." Bush, acknowledging that he does get "antsy," figured painting would be something he "would benefit" from.

The book features 66 portraits and a four-panel mural of veterans he has come to know over the years, with each picture accompanied by a brief essay by Bush. "Portraits of Courage" is not political, although Bush notes one veteran's story resonates with current events. Juan Carlos Hernandez, a former Army specialist who lost his leg while serving in Afghanistan, is a Mexican immigrant who illegally crossed the border but later became a U.S. citizen.

Teen's parents learn too late about alcohol at friends's home

DEAR ABBY: I have seen letters in your column from parents who want to ensure their children's and teenagers' safety when visiting their friends' homes. A question parents need to ask the hosting parents is what their drug and alcohol policy is.

We wrongly assumed (and trusted) that our daughter's friends' parents did not facilitate access to alcohol or drugs to minors. We realized—too late—that from the time she was 15, our daughter had access to unmonitored alcohol and was sometimes encouraged to consume it in these homes.

Many parents think it's OK if teens drink alcohol under supervision, as long as the parents are there and they have possession of the car keys. They wrongly rationalize that the teens are going to do it anyway, so why not under supervision?

What these good-time parents don't consider is that a teen who may have a genetic predisposition to addiction may have just gotten a switch turned on in his or her developing brain. You can't look at people and know if they are prone to addiction. In our case, our daughter's addiction became a long, difficult struggle, which led to the untimely death of our smart and talented daughter at age 24.

GRIEVING MOM IN RENO

DEAR GRIEVING MOM: I am sorry for the tragic loss of your daughter. In most states, providing alcohol to minors is against the law, not only for public safety, but also for the reason you stated.

Years ago, I spoke with a gentleman who was active with the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD), when he repeated something he'd heard at an AA meeting. He said the subject being discussed at the meeting was what it felt like having that "very first drink." One of the members stood up and said, "It was like someone switched a light on in my head, and I said to myself, 'So that's what it's like to feel normal!'" This is why it is imperative that families with a history of addiction make their children aware of it and clearly understand why it's important they avoid addictive substances even if their friends are indulging.

DEAR ABBY: My husband is obsessed with his personal electronic devices and insists on using one most of the time. He gets angry if I ask him to stop even for a short time. But the worst part is, he routinely takes his tablet into the bathroom with him for extended periods. And no, he does not sanitize the tablet afterward—or ever, for that matter.

Abby, he reads your column and I'm hoping you might comment on this unsafe and repulsive habit. Please help, because he won't listen to me.

GROSSED OUT IN NEW MEXICO

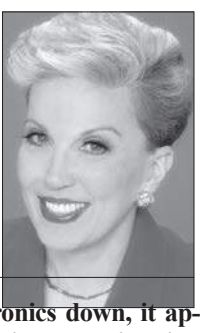
DEAR GROSSED OUT: Because your husband gets angry when you ask him to put his electronics down, it appears he may have an obsession. Not only is what he's doing rude, but it isn't healthy for your marriage because communication is important between spouses. When he takes his tablet into the bathroom "for a long time," could he be viewing or texting things he wants to keep from you?

As to his hygiene habits, smartphones and tablets can be more unhygienic than toilet seats if they're used for "toilet texting." The user's hands should be washed afterward, and the device should be disinfected, too—particularly if it will be in contact with the user's face.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

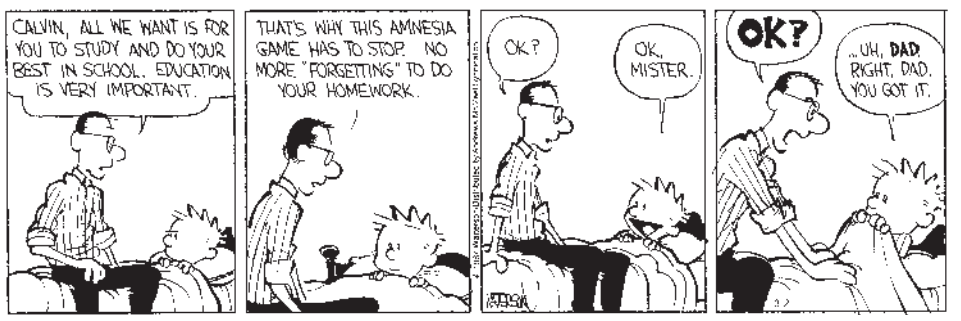


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CALVIN, ALL WE WANT IS FOR YOU TO STUDY AND DO YOUR BEST IN SCHOOL. EDUCATION IS VERY IMPORTANT.
THAT'S WHY THIS AMNESIA GAME HAS TO STOP. NO MORE "FORGETTING" TO DO YOUR HOMEWORK.
OK?
OK, MISTER.
OK?
..UH, DAD. RIGHT, DAD. YOU GOT IT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

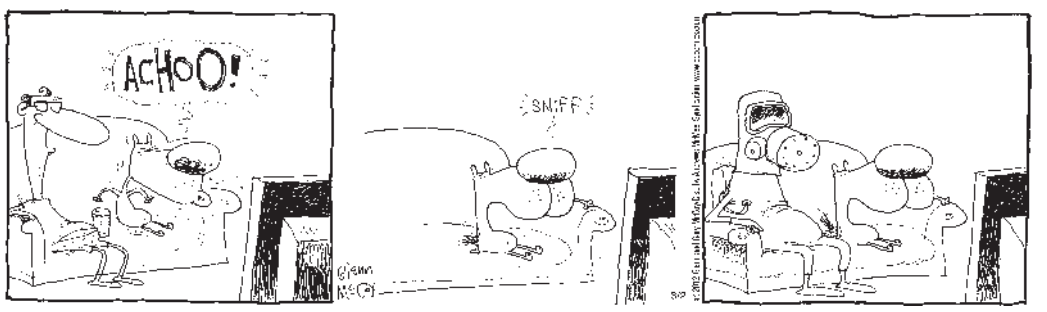
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

CAN I TRY WRITING A REVIEW?
OKAY. THIS IS AN ITALIAN ROAST.
OKAY..."THIS COFFEE IS BETTER THAN MY MAMA'S MEAT SAUCE! PIZZA! CANNOLIS! LET'S GO RIDE SOME SCOOTERS!!"
I GET MOST OF MY KNOWLEDGE FROM CARTOONS.
WE NEED TO BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS, BUT THAT SCOOTER LINE IS GOLDEN.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

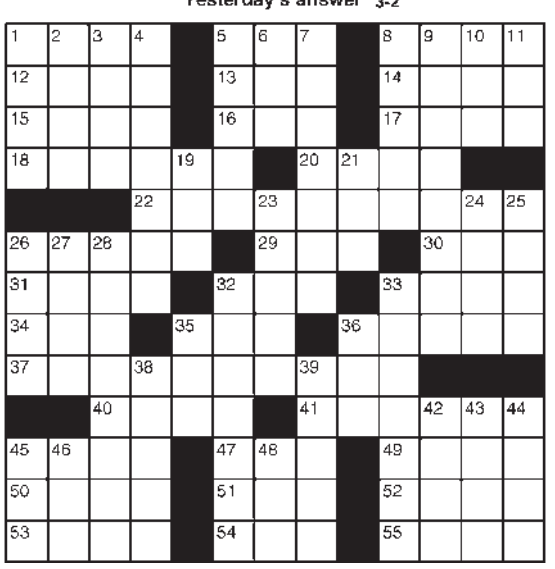
1 Leak out slowly
5 Little lie
8 Gravy vessel
12 Texas city
13 Marseilles monarch
14 Anger
15 Play parts
16 Connections
17 Actress Lena
18 Snapshots
20 Penny
22 Hotel courtesy
26 Nasser's successor
29 Noon, on a sundial
30 PBS funder
31 Engine noise
32 However
33 "SNL" segment
34 Before
35 In favor of
36 Old hat
37 Dive that makes a big splash
40 — salad
41 Nearsighted
45 London neighborhood
47 Kimono sash
49 Approximately
50 Exploits
51 Petty peeve
52 The Big Easy acronym
53 Undressed
54 Pigs' digs
55 Lovers' quarrel

DOWN

1 Trade
2 Apiece
3 Outside (Pref.)
4 Ante-bellum's opposite
5 Pat down
6 Charged bit
7 Dog treat
8 Bucking horse
9 Home fuel containers
10 Frazier foe
11 Sawbuck
19 Feedbag bit
21 Prefix with dermis
23 Outlying community
24 Floral rings
25 Overdue
26 Detail, briefly
27 Mystique
28 Sopping wet
32 Chocolate treats
33 Western bars
35 Watch chain
36 Layer
38 Rope loop
39 Friendship
42 Item on stage
43 Actress Fisher
44 Paint layer
45 Day light
46 Buckeyes' sch.
48 Morsel

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bryce Dallas Howard, 36; Method Man, 46; Daniel Craig, 49; Jon Bon Jovi, 55.

Happy Birthday: Take pride in what you do. Don't let anyone make you feel awkward for being original or for delving into the unknown or unfamiliar. Growth comes from being inquisitive and curious, not from doing things the same way every day. Let your emotions lead you into rich encounters that offer knowledge, experience and variety. Live life your way. Your numbers are 8, 12, 20, 23, 31, 37, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: You may have to take an emotional look at the past before you can move forward. Do what has to be done and put any negativity behind you. Don't let anger mount. Remain calm and offer an intelligent perspective. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: Share your feelings and thoughts. Once you make your position clear, you will discover that you are not alone in the way you are thinking. Join forces with someone willing to go the distance in order to bring about change. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: Truth will be difficult to find. Do your own fact-finding and make a change based on what you need, not what others prompt you to do. Personal gains will result if you make honest personal assessments. Make love a priority. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: Excess will be your downfall. Stick to basics and use what you have to come up with and develop what you want to do. Your efforts will attract attention and the support you need to make progress toward your goals. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: Networking will prove beneficial when it comes to working your way into a cushy position. Getting along with your peers will not be easy due to jealousy and underhandedness. Protect your reputation and your position. Practice diplomacy. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: Opportunity will stem from conversations, business trips or educational pursuits. Expand your interests, ask questions and get involved in events that will spark your imagination. Collaboration will lead to important long-term partnerships. Mix business with pleasure. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Consider what others have to offer regarding financial, medical or legal concerns. Greater insight will come if you are more resourceful pressing forward. Take your time and you will avoid a costly mistake. Pay attention to detail. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: Make personal and partnership changes. Aligning yourself with people who are dedicated to reaching similar goals will encourage greater creativity and stimulate new interest and diverse options to the way you use your skills. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: Network and you'll intrigue someone with your enthusiasm and pioneering thoughts. Be careful not to offer too much information or someone may try to pass your ideas off as his or her own. Offer just enough to capture your audience. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: You'll get more back if you put your time and effort into making your surroundings comfortable and convenient. Bringing some of the people and pastimes you used to enjoy back into your life will bring you peace of mind. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: An emotional situation will quickly turn into confusion if you are too open about the way you feel. Take time to evaluate what you truly want before you get into a conversation that could change the way you move forward. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: Believe in yourself and you will find a way to accomplish your goals. Set standards that will make you stretch your skills, knowledge and creativity. Surround yourself with people who inspire rather than drain you. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, passionate and thoughtful. You are distinguished and appealing.

*Eugenia's websites—**eugenialast.com** for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin.***

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9		3		8				2
	5			1			7	
				6				4
8		6						
	7						2	
						4		6
5			1					
	1			8			3	
2			4			5		9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	7	4	3	8	6	9	5
5	8	6	9	1	2	3	7	4
4	3	9	7	6	5	2	8	1
2	5	3	1	4	7	8	6	9
7	6	8	3	5	9	1	4	2
9	4	1	2	8	6	5	3	7
6	1	5	8	9	4	7	2	3
3	9	2	6	7	1	4	5	8
8	7	4	5	2	3	9	1	6

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PRICELINE, EXPEDIA, KAYAK, ETC. Solution: 4 letters

D	F	S	T	H	G	I	L	F	M	O	B	I	L	E
E	E	H	C	R	A	E	S	U	E	S	I	U	R	C
P	C	S	S	A	V	E	L	A	V	I	R	R	A	N
A	(F)	I	T	A	C	T	I	C	K	E	T	S	I	A
R	A	(A)	R	I	I	C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	R
T	M	T	(R)	P	N	E	O	D	A	T	E	S	P	U
U	I	E	L	(E)	N	A	B	U	N	O	E	S	O	S
R	L	E	M	I	N	U	T	O	N	N	R	A	R	N
E	Y	E	L	R	S	E	R	I	O	T	U	L	T	I
S	H	R	U	I	N	F	S	I	O	K	C	C	R	K
T	I	T	N	R	H	A	T	N	S	N	E	A	O	C
A	E	E	E	C	C	A	L	I	E	S	S	R	P	E
R	S	T	A	I	C	I	T	D	E	A	L	S	P	H
S	N	E	T	A	N	E	R	D	L	I	H	C	U	C
I	B	Y	V	E	S	M	O	O	R	G	U	E	S	T

©2017 Andrews McMeel www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 3/2

Account, Airline, Airport, Arrival, Beachfront, Book, Business, Cars, Casino, Check In, Children, City, Class, Computer, Cruise, Dates, Deals, Departures, Destinations, Family, Fare, Flights, Guest, Insurance, Internet, Mobile, Multiple, Online, Price, Return, Rooms, Save, Search, Secure, Sites, Support, Theme, Tickets, Travel, Vacation

Yesterday's Answer: Extravagant

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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www.guam.wish.org

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Claimants

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter of the Estate of	:	CIVIL ACTION
	:	NO.: 04-0564
MARCELA UNTALAN HOFSCHNEIDER	:	
Deceased.	:	

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 2, 2016, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Marcela Untalan Hofschneider in and to the following property: Lot 101 T 05, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. This lot contains an area of 25,037 square meters. It is believed that the Estate of Marcela Untalan Hofschneider is the owner of an undivided 13,777 square meters in the said lot.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 10, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 27th day of January, 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Medical Sales Representative

Required Qualifications:

- U.S. accredited Bachelor's Degree in: Medical Technology, Biomedical Engineering, Chemistry, Biochemistry or related science or medical field.
- Minimum of 2 years experience in the field of Sales of pharmaceuticals, dialysis supplies and equipment, medical supplies and equipment, laboratory reagents and equipment.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills and a good command of the English language. Non-native speakers may be requested to present satisfactory TOEFL or IELTS scores.
  Experienced in maintaining and monitoring inventories for medical supplies and equipment, dialysis supplies and equipment, and pharmaceuticals.
- Experienced in handling medical equipment and supplies, dialysis equipment and supplies, laboratory reagents and equipment.
- Capable of preparing and presenting weekly sales reports, monthly inventory reports, and market analysis reports using Quickbooks 2013 or other similar accounting software.
- Must be available to work during nights, weekends, and holidays.
- Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license

Interested applicants may email a copy of their resume and police clearance to ruth.feril@medpharmusa.net or fax to 670-235-5418.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

In inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant positions

(1) Supervisor, Carpentry
2 years experience as a carpenter in a supervisory level is required. Must have strong organizational and time management skills. Must be able to work under pressure and be able to lift and carry heavy objects. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Application forms may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa. Deadline for submission of applications to be considered is March 6, 2017.

Fiesta Resort & Spa is an Equal Opportunity Employer

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd. inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE – HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY & LUBRICANTS

A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful Sales record. Preferably with an Associate's degree in Sales & Marketing. Sales experience with hotel, F&B, and restaurants together with knowledge of their inventory supply operations an advantage. Knowledge of petroleum lubricants a plus. Proven good track record in product marketing and excellent customer service is required. Must be proficient in Microsoft Excel, Word and Outlook. Must provide own reliable transport and must be able to meet monthly sales targets. Must be able to lift 50lbs. Extensive contacts in various businesses and industries an advantage. Available to work evenings, holidays or weekends as needed.

Interested applicants must submit an application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. building, Lower Base, by March 14, 2017. Applications may also be sent to: mpk@dandq-international.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment.
Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.

(04) REGISTERED NURSE

- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- One or two years hemodialysis experience or related field
- English language skills-proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- In-Service training with Baxter Phoenix machine
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system

Interested applicants must submit applications or resume to St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be March 07, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call (670) 234-2901 ext. 128.

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.

HEMODIALYSIS TECHNICIAN (02)

- Certified from Junior College/Technician School in healthcare
- Attended a hemodialysis-training program
- Three years hemodialysis experience-preferred
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Flexible with time schedule

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick-up application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on March 9, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call (670) 234-2905, ext. 128.

Century Hotel is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant positions:

(5) GENERAL MAINTENANCE
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years work experience as a handyman preferably in a hotel or in a similar large building or complex with a central plant. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Possession of a valid CNMI driver's license is required. Perform work involving skills of two or more maintenance craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment of the structure of an establishment in repair. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights. High School diploma or equivalent.

Application may be picked up and submitted to Fiesta Resort's security office located in the South Wing. A drug test must be passed as a condition of employment.
Closing date: March 3, 2017

Century Hotel is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified Women, Minorities Veterans and persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

CORAL OCEAN GOLF RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
URGENT HIRING!!!

(1) Accountant — Salary : $7.25 to $8.75
Bachelor Degree in Accounting or equivalent. Have at least 2 to 4 years accounting work experience in hotel/golf course industry or equivalent. Have knowledge of economic and accounting principles and practices, A/P, A/R, G/L, FS, bank analysis and reporting of financial data. Excellent in mathematical and communication skills. Ability to maintain highly confidential nature of accounting works and possess professionalism with good manners and right conduct. Knowledge in different accounting software application. Must know how to operate Peachtree Program and must be computer literate. Must be able to work under pressure and meet deadlines. Company may require a written accounting examination.

(1) Automotive Mechanic — Salary : $7.00 to $8.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least one or two years of working experienced in full range skilled repair and maintenance on automobiles, small engines such as golf course equipment, heavy equipment, and other mechanical and electrical equipment. Has the ability to be extent flexibility that includes bending, twisting, and lifting.

(5) Cooks — Salary : $7.00 to $8.00
Six months to a year of work related experienced. Culinary Degree preferred but not required. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well-groomed at all times. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time. Full understanding of licensing responsibilities and environmental health standards. And a highly qualified in preparing variety of food and knowledgeable in processing and food production like salad, appetizers, dessert and main entrees. Must be able to obtain a Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(10) Housekeepers — Salary Range : $6.55 to $7.15
High School Diploma or equivalent. Few months to one year related work experienced. Knowledge of principles and process for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of arrival. Must be able to understand and follow instructions and out task in order and willing to work under pressure with the specified number of rooms or duties assigned in everyday. Has the ability to be extent flexibility that includes bending, twisting and lifting. Experienced in Hotel Industry for the position is a plus. Computer literacy is preferred but not required. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time and must possess a friendly and good manners.

(2) Lifeguard — Salary: $6.55 to $8.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least from a few month to a year of related work experienced. First Aide and CPR Certified, swimmer or a certified lifeguard or must be able to acquire Lifeguard Certification. He/She must be familiar with the safe handling of pool chemicals and the process to clean and sanitize the area. Posses a friendly, good moral character and good communications skills. Fit to work under the sun. Company may require swimming test.

Suwaso Corporation dba Coral Ocean Golf Resort would like to invite all qualified US workers to send/submit their resume/application form to Marge.Binuya@eland.co.kr. Deadline of submission is on March 10, 2016 at 1:00 PM. Provide at least two recommendation letter and proof of certification for the position, if needed. All interested applicant must be willing to work in a flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekend and holidays. Application form is also available in the hotel lobby and HR Office. Incomplete application may not be considered for assessment. Fill up the form completely prior submission. No phone calls please.

WHATZIT Solution: The devil is in the detail

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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detsatanail

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AM Machine Shop & Car Airconditioning
(3) Machinist - must have 3 years experience. Knowledgeable in Modifying & Fabrication any parts Metallic & Non Metallic

AQUAVILLE INC.
(1) Operation Manager
- Can Speak Korean, Chinese, and English
- At least 4 Years Experience in Managing Marine Sports Activities

(1) Sales Advertising Agent
- At least 3 Years Experience

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 323-0102

Auto Marine Incorporation
(2) Commercial Diver
- Can Speak Japanese and English
- At least 3 Years Experience in Scuba Diving

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 323-2916

Blue Star Corporation
(1) Tour Coordinator
• Can Speak Korean and English
• At Least 3 Years Experience

MAC's Marine
(1) Maintenance Repairer
- Knowledgeable in Fiber Glassing
- At least 3 Years Experience

(2) Commercial Diver
- Can Speak Japanese and English
- At least 3 Years Experience in Scuba Diving

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 322-6227

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd.
Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following positions:

Aircraft Maintenance Technician (7)
Requires: Graduate of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering program with 2 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Performs various repairs on aircraft airframe and power plants and other required services to ensure airworthiness. Must be skilled in the use of specialized aircraft testing equipment and hold current U.S. FAA A&P License or an equivalent foreign license. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Ground Support Equipment Mechanic (5)
Requires: Diploma from technical/vocational course on automotive/diesel engines with minimum of 2 years experience in repair and overhaul of gas and diesel engines for automobiles and other specialized motorized equipment. Performs mechanical and electrical repairs, welding repairs, corrosion treatment and painting on all GSE equipment and vehicles. Must also be skilled in parts fabrication. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Load Planning Specialist (3)
Requires: Associate's Degree with 2 years of aircraft ramp operation experience with specific airline certification as a load planner. Ensures that aircraft load is distributed and secured in accordance with aircraft weight and balance requirements, ensuring that the aircraft's operational or structural limitations are not exceeded. Must be computer-literate and can perform manual weight and balance calculations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Technical Operations Supervisor (1)
Requires: Diploma from technical / vocational course on automobile gas / diesel engines with minimum 4 years experience with a supervisory capacity in electrical, electronic, pneumatic, hydraulic system and gas / diesel engine maintenance. Plans work and supervises mechanics in performing mechanical and electrical repairs, welding repairs, corrosion treatment and painting on all GSE equipment and vehicles. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Terminal Operations Supervisor (1)
Requires: Associate's degree in related field. Five (5) years equivalent work experience. Specific airline certification as load planner. Sufficient mathematical skills to perform manual weight and balance calculations. Thorough knowledge in all areas of ramp, cargo and flight operations. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Interested applicants may send their applications to Int_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 15, 2017. Applications for employment are available at the **Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan.** Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

L&T Group of Companies, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following positions:

Customer Service Supervisor (1)
Requires: Associate's Degree in related field or comparable work experience preferred. One to two years equivalent work experience. Provides assistance and customer service to passengers by performing various customer service duties in the airport such as check-in, reservations, baggage and processing. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Customer Service Agent (Interpreter) (6)
Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least 2 years' experience working as Passenger Service agent or on any related field of work. Fluency in a specific foreign language (Chinese/Korean) is required. Foreign Language speaking interpreters must effectively convert the verbal communication of one of these languages (Chinese/Korean) into the verbal form of the other. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Lead Customer Service Agent (Cargo) (3)
Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience as a cargo handler. Handles and accepts cargoes according to the IATA, FAA, TSA, local airport, airlines and company regulations. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the supervisor, preparing documents for out-going and transfer cargoes. Must be able to operate forklift and other cargo-handling equipment and be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Must be proficient in the use of CSP Cargo Trac System. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Lead Customer Service Agent (Ramp) (5)
Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in ramp cargo loading and unloading operations. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the supervisor, operating equipment for loading and off-loading baggage/cargo to and from the aircraft for both commercial and freight aircraft. Ability to teach operation of specialized equipment for aircraft servicing and ramp operations. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_frs@tanholdings.com.
To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 15, 2017.
Applications for employment are available at the Security Office, ground floor, south wing.
Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant position

Laundry Attendant (1)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. 6 months to 1 year work experience as a laundry worker is preferred. Must be able to lift and push up to 30 pounds without any assistance. Must be able to stand on feet for long period of time. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends, nights and holidays.

Housekeeping Cleaner (9)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. Minimum of 6 months work experience in a hotel Is preferred. Able to speak and write English. Ability to speak basic foreign language is a plus . Good customer service skills are essential. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects.

Tailor / Seamstress (1)
Qualifications: Measures, makes or alters uniforms for new employees. Repairs and maintain uniforms for all hotel employees. Organize and take inventory for all fabric materials, perform other duties as may be assigned by immediate superior. Must have 2 years tailoring experience. Is able to work well under pressure in a fast pace environment. Must be able to work flexible schedule including holidays.

Executive Chef (1)
Qualifications: Responsible for all food purchase specifications and recipes including that used for restaurants, banquet functions and other outlets. Develop and monitor food and labor budget for the department. Interview, select, train, supervise, counsel and discipline all employees in the department. Maintain highest professional food quality and sanitation standards. 2 years previous experience as executive chef in a high volume hotel or large restaurant. Strong interpersonal , communication and organizational skills are essential.

Wait Staff (1) – China Market
Duties/Responsibilities: Take orders and serve food and beverage to patrons at tables in dining establishment. Check with customers to ensure that they are enjoying their meals and take action to correct any problems. Memorize orders to enter orders into computers for transmittal to kitchen staff.
Requirements: High school graduate, GED or equivalent required. Must have ability to calculate figures, volumes and mathematical conversions. Ability to respond to common inquiries and complaints from customers. Ability to write and speak clearly and effectively in English and Chinese is required. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Application forms may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa. Deadline for submission of applications to be considered is March 3, 2017.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accounting and Circulations Manager (1)
College degree with financial management major and 3 years of progressive financial management and newspaper circulation experience. Minimum of 5 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management and newspaper circulation activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage a work team and independent contractors. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software. CPA not required.

Associate Editor (1)
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any other related course with at least 5 years experience, including newsroom management, story evaluation, and production. Must have strong rewriting, headlining, and proofreading skills and must be able to meet tight deadlines. Preferably with an extensive experience in sports writing.

Circulations Coordinator (1)
Associates degree with a minimum of 2 years progressively responsible work experience. Requirements include professional customer service and good driving skills. Must be able to routinely lift and move bundles of newspapers up to 50 lbs.

Graphic Designer (3)
Associate's degree in Graphic Design or other related field. Minimum of 3 years work experience doing computer graphics and newspaper layout. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Must be familiar with offset printing process, computer peripherals, and Mac operating system. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, weekends, and holidays, depending on demand.

Art Director (1)
Associate's degree in Graphic Design or other related course. Minimum 5 years work experience in computer graphic and newspaper layout. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must Must be able to assigns and directs staff members to develop design concepts into art layouts. Reviews and approves art and copy materials developed by staff, and proofs of printed copy. Presents final layouts.

Managing Editor (1)
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course. At least 8 years progressive journalism and newspaper management experience with a strong story evaluation and production background. Must have rigorous proofreading skills and able to meet tight deadlines. Knows how to use InDesign or Quark Express and must be adept in the various technical aspects of newspaper publishing.

Reporters (2)
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course; At least 3 years work related experience; Above-average writing skills and a competent grasp of grammar and syntax; With rigorous standards for accuracy and detail; Ability to work within deadlines and in a stressful environment; Knowledgeable in all types of writing, including news and features; With photography skills. Must have own reliable transportation

Sports Reporter (1)
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English or any related course; At least 2 years experience in sports writing. Above average writing skills, with strong grasp of grammar and syntax. Must be able to write stories based on score sheets. Can work fast within deadlines and in a stressful environment. Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player. Must be able to work on holidays, weekends, late nights, and on a short notice. Must be computer literate and have photography skills. Must have own reliable transportation.

Accountant (1)
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work-related experience in general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Advertising Sales Agent (1)
Associates degree in Business Administration or any related course. Minimum of 3 years solid experience in advertising and sales is required. Must have the ability to compose clear business correspondence and prepare and meet monthly sales targets. A background in a printing or newspaper business is an advantage. Proficient in MS Word, Excel and Power Point and must work flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at the Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 9, 2017.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accountants (1)
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work-related experience in insurance financial management, payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and payroll management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, GENIISYS and MS Word and Excel software. Payroll accountant must possess experience in electronic processing of timesheets, allotments, and standard and government deductions. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Accounting Manager (1)
Bachelor's degree in Business Administration major in accounting with a minimum 5 years experience in insurance financial management and possess good management ability. Proficient in MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SAP R3 FICO system, and the insurance Geniisys program. Must possess good understanding of government and regulatory compliance procedures and requirements, excellent communication skills, as well as experience in interpreting financial reports. Preparation of NAIC Annual & Quarterly Statements, knows how to understand actuarial reports. Auditing experience is an advantage.

General Manager (1)
Bachelor's Degree plus 10 years experience in the insurance business, with at least 5 years experience as a General or Operations Manager position in an insurance company. Must possess experience in managing, technical underwriting, including actual undertaking of risk analysis through risk survey and/or inspections of huge risks. Must have experience in managing reinsurance transactions, with reinsurance brokers and reinsurers which involves undertaking of PML, Catastrophe Modeling, Setting Company Risk Retention. Must also be experienced in managing insurance claims handling including setting up of loss reserves in overseeing Claims Manager functions.

System Analyst (1)
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/Technology or Management Information Systems with a minimum 4 years experience in computer systems and programming. Must possess a broad knowledge and experience in computer systems, strong problem-solving and analytical skills, and the ability to think logically. Must have knowledge in Oracle server and programming, and a strong experience in insurance database and program – GENIISYS and an in-depth experience in insurance business operations. Must have good interpersonal and communication skills.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, March 9, 2017.

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Workforce Solutions, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Management Accountant (2)
College degree with accounting or financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in analyzing, interpreting and providing sound financial information. Must be adept in monthly financial statement preparation and consolidation, cash flow forecasting, budgeting, and providing financial projections. Must have excellent communication, organizational and self-management skills. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft Excel, Power Point and Project. CPA not required.

Building Cleaner (4)
High School Diploma or equivalent. Must have at least 3 years working experience. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Important qualities: detailed oriented, responsible. Interpersonal skills. Must get along well with people they provide services for and must be polite and friendly. Physical stamina. Must be able to spend many hours on their feet scrubbing, bending, stooping, and stretching and must be able to lift or move up to 50 pounds. Must be able to work flexible hours and days

Accountant (5)
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Business Development Manager (1)
Graduate of a 4-year degree course with an Accounting or Financial Management major and at least 5 years of progressive financial and business management experience. Minimum of 3 years general management experience preferably in a financing or banking institution. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software and Microsoft software. Should possess a solid track record of accomplishing business objectives.

Accounting Manager (1)
College degree with financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software.

Accounting Supervisor (1)
A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a focus in accounting and/or finance. 2-3 years of progressive responsibility supervising a minimum of 3 associates. CPA/CPA candidate a plus. Audit experience also preferred. Must have knowledge with the use of SAP R3 FICO System and SAP Fixed Asset Module. Microsoft Office proficiency with advanced knowledge of Excel is a must.

Administrative Assistant (2)
Associate's Degree with 2 years experience of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records. Must be proficient in typing and good at written and oral communication. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service and interpersonal skills at work. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights. Proficient in MS Office including Word, Excel and Outlook.

Messenger (2)
High school graduate. Must be able to keep track of multiple documents and itemize. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Good oral and written communication skills and good driving skills are required. Must provide and maintain own vehicle for work and have a valid driver's license. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

Administrative Assistant for Sports Facilities (4)
High school diploma or GED Certificate plus experience working in sports organization or sports facilities. Must be computer literate: Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook. Applicant must have good written and oral communication skills. Can work flexible hours and available on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Air conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic (2)
Associate's Degree or Vocational School graduate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, servicing, and repairing air conditioning and refrigerating systems in residences and commercial establishments. Must have his/her own reliable transportation and must be able to work flexible hours.

HR & Administrative Assistant (1)
Associate's Degree. Must have knowledge of principles and procedures for personnel recruitment, selection, benefits and personnel information systems. Ability to work in confidential related matters, self-directed and be able to multi-task in a fast paced environment. With a minimum of 2 years work experience in an administrative role and accounting experience. Proficient in MS Office including Word, Excel and Outlook.

Vice President (1)
Graduate of 4-year degree course with a minimum of 10 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 5 years of general management experience in property management or hotel management, and tourism & cargo business experience for Korean Market. Proficient in English & Korean (reading, writing, speaking). Knowledge of lease negotiations plus financial and quality management is required. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

Electrician (1)
High school diploma or GED certificate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, maintaining, and/or repairing electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Must have knowledge of electrical codes, intercom and electrical control systems. Must be able to work flexible hours.

General Maintenance Worker (11)
High school diploma or equivalent with at least 3 years experience especially in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

Network Administration Manager (1)
Associate's degree in any computer science, information engineering or other computer technology related areas. Must have at least 5 years of sound experience in local and wide area networks management and administration including system configuration, setup, troubleshooting, planning, designing, implementation, and user support. Must have knowledge in MS Exchange Email Server.

Engineering Manager (1)
Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering with at least 5 years of progressive management experience. Ability to successfully develop, implement and manage projects including the ability to provide effective leadership is a must. Adeptness in cost estimation and knowledge of quality control and federal regulations in environmental and occupational safety hazards is required. The duties of this job require constant outside travel and exposure to outside weather conditions. Must be able to provide his/her own transportation and must have a valid driver's license.

Sales Officer (1)
Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Must be able to prepare management and sales reports and is proficient in various MS office software operations. Can work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Legal Secretary (2)
Associates degree and at least 2 years work related experience in a legal office. Proficient in case and document management software, Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Power Point and Outlook. Familiar in preparation and filing of pleadings and legal documents.

Corporate Paralegal Officer (1)
Bachelor's degree in paralegal studies or in any related field. Minimum of 3 years experience providing sound legal research, reliable litigation support and preparation of legal documents, pleadings and contracts. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Familiarity with Lexis - Nexis and Pacer - ECF is required.

IT Manager (1)
College degree with a major in computer science, computer technology or information engineering or other related areas is required. At least 5 years of progressive management experience and 8 years of sound and all-around IT technical experience is required. Must have well-developed written/oral and management skills and with a strong background in all IT hardware, software and communication business requirements.

Computer Technician (1)
Associate's degree in any computer science, information technology or other related areas. Must have at least 3 years of sound experience in electronics and communication systems with emphasis on the repair of computer equipment and installation of telephone cables/systems. Must be knowledgeable in different software applications and in hardware troubleshooting. Must be able to work flexible hours.

Graphic Designer (1)
Associate's degree in Fine Arts, Graphic Design or other related areas. Minimum of 3 years work experience in creating graphics to meet specific commercial or promotional needs. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, depending on demand.

Programmer Analyst (1)
Associate's degree in computer science or computer programming and at least 3 years of work-related experience in a professional Microsoft Windows environment. Strong practical knowledge in relational databases management particularly in midrange RDMS environment such as SQL server. Knowledge in windows-based and web-based programming is a must.

Interested applicants may send their resumes to workforcesolutions.recruitment@gmail.com.
To be considered, applications or resumes must
be submitted not later than 5:00 pm, Friday, March 10, 2017.

Workforce Solutions, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Workforce Solutions, Inc. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Logistics Manager
Graduate of 4-year degree course and with at least 6 years management experience in the logistics business with emphasis on airfreight, ocean freight forwarding, warehousing and fuel hauling operations. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, Environmental and Occupational Safety Hazards is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Accounting Manager
Graduate of 4-year degree course in accounting with at least 5 years experience in financial management: directing the preparation of financial reports; implementing cash management; and directing investment activities for a logistics supply chain business operations. Must have excellent written communication and analysis skills for financial data reporting. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics software are a must. Expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point is required. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Sales & Marketing Manager
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Sales or Marketing or any Business course and at least 3 years of managerial work experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations are a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

Accountant
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 3 years work experience in financial management for a logistics/supply chain business or agency operations. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics systems. Must have expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Storage and Distribution Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years of distribution and warehousing supervisory experience. Knowledge of household goods handling and airfreight and oceanfreight operations is required. Proficiency in Warehouse management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Shipping Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of shipping, receiving and warehousing supervisory experience is required. Proficiency in shipping operations, shipping documentation & cargo management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, 49 CFR & IMDG Code is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines. Knowledge of bill of ladings, scheduling and planning inbound and outbound shipments is a must.

Transportation Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of logistics and trucking operations supervisory experience is required. Must be knowledgeable in transportation and safety regulations and proficient in various logistic software. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Freight Forwarding Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years experience in freight forwarding operations and 1-year experience in transportation security and communication related activities. Knowledge of TSA security regulations and proficiency in TSA Known Shipper Management System are a must. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation and IATA related trainings. Proficiency in airfreight documentation, freight forwarding software, FEDEX systems and operations are a must. Must be familiar with airline operations and regulations.

Cargo and Freight Agent (5)
Associate's Degree with a minimum of 2 years experience in a logistics, freight brokerage or warehouse services business. Must know how to operate a forklift with certification. Must be able to do strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of small items on the job. Licensed to drive 4x6 wheel closed vans and must have obtained training or certification in handling hazardous materials, Occupational Safety, Hazardous Waste Operation and IAC CCSF authorized screener. Must be proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs and available to work on evenings and weekend hours.

Specialized Truck Driver (6)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Must have at least 3 years experience in hauling petroleum products with the corresponding SMITHS & STOPS training certification, carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Heavy Equipment Truck Driver (3)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Shipping and Receiving Clerk (4)
Associate's Degree and at least 2 years work related experience. Must be proficient in MS Office programs as well as other planning and logistics software. Knowledge of supply chain, shipping operations and procedures, document preparation and recordkeeping is required. Should possess good interpersonal and verbal communication skills.

Accounting Clerk
High School graduate, GED, Associates degree or equivalent with at least 2-3 years bookkeeping or clerical accounting work experience in freight forwarding operation, sales or service related work. Associate Degree in Accounting, Auditing, Business Management or Finance an advantage. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Word Processor and Spreadsheet; and proficient with Accounting software such as SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) system, ERP system, and HR2 system).

Truck Mechanic
Vocational or High School Graduate. Must be able to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul trucks, or maintain and repair any type of engines. Minimum of two (2) year work experience is required on these areas: lubrication, repairs and servicing, use of machine tools, welding and flame cutting, engine elements, gears, brakes, transmission, exhausts, etc. Proficiency in critical devices for fuel tank trucks is a must.

Automotive Body Repairer
Formal Auto Body Training in a Vocational School is required as well as a minimum of one-year experience in repairing and refinishing automotive vehicle bodies' vehicle frames. Proficiency in automotive body painting is required.

Janitor
Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience.
Interested applicants may send their resumes to workforcesolutions.recruitment@gmail.com.
To be considered, applications or resumes must
be submitted not later than 5:00 pm, Friday, March 10, 2017.

Workforce Solutions, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Warriors lose Durant to injury, lose game to Wizards

WASHINGTON (AP)—Even after Kevin Durant injured his left knee and departed only 93 seconds in, and even after Golden State trailed by as many as 19 points, and even after Stephen Curry's drought from behind the arc stretched to 14 attempts over two games, the NBA-best Warriors had a pretty good chance to take the lead late.

That's because Curry caught the Washington Wizards trying to made a defensive switch, so he let fly on a potential go-ahead 3-pointer from 31 feet away with less than 10 seconds left Tuesday night and the Warriors trailing by two.

"A shot I normally make, so I was confident," Curry said. "You live for those moments. You live with the result."

He missed.

Markieff Morris grabbed the rebound, then made a pair of free throws with 3.7 seconds remaining, capping his 22-point night and clinching Washington's 112-108 victory despite Curry's 25 points.

Durant hyperextended his knee when teammate Zaza Pachulia fell into him after getting pushed by Washington center Marcin Gortat. Golden State's leading scorer and rebounder—who exited with zero points, ending his streak of 562 regular-season games with at least 10—will have an MRI exam Wednesday.

"I'm always concerned about any injury, because you never know how bad it's going to be," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said, "so we'll just wait and see and keep our fingers crossed."

Draymond Green, who had 14 points and 14 assists, said he was "just really hoping that it was a bone bruise."

Washington's Scott Brooks, who coached Durant when both were with Oklahoma City, said: "Hopefully it's nothing serious. Prayers go to him."

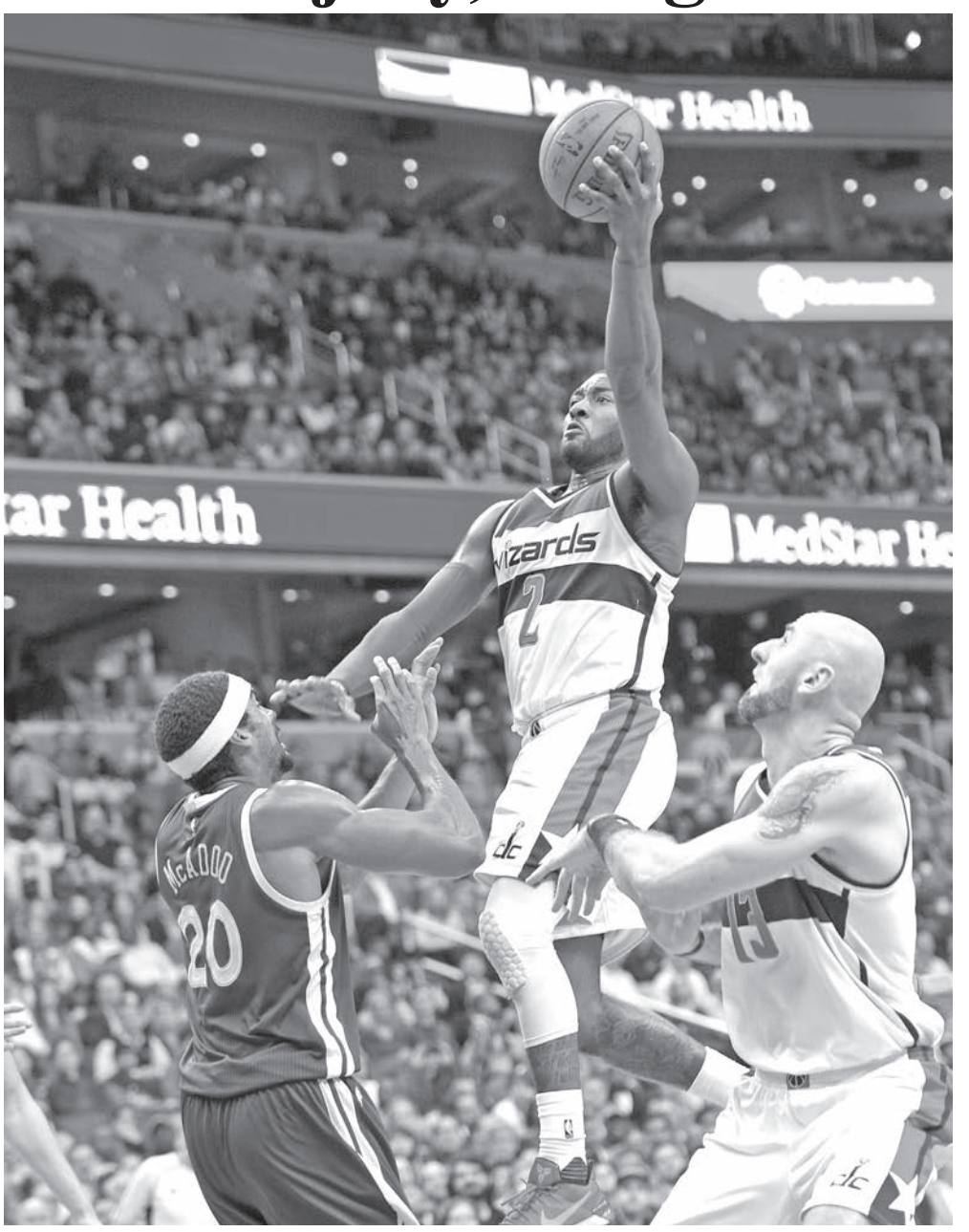
Much, much later in the evening, after Golden State had erased its early 39-20 deficit and entered the fourth quarter tied, the Wizards figured they were in trouble. That's because Curry got that open look, even if he went only 2 for 9 on 3s one night after going 0 for 11.

"We were switching and he just stopped—way, way, way out," Washington's John Wall said after tying his career high with 19 assists while dealing with a cold. "Just prayed it didn't go in."

Bradley Beal, who led the Wizards with 25 points, said: "I'm not going to lie: When he shot it, I was a little nervous. ... We were fortunate he's been off a little bit from deep range."

Washington had broken a 108-all tie when Otto Porter made two foul shots after being fouled by Curry on a put-back attempt with 17.5 seconds remaining.

"It was huge," Brooks said. "Otto's a sneaky rebounder offensively."



AP

Washington Wizards guard John Wall (2) goes to the basket against Golden State Warriors forward James Michael McAdoo (20) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017, in Washington.

Thunder 109, Jazz 106

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook scored 12 of his 43 points in the final 2:05 to help Oklahoma City beat Utah.

Westbrook also had 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his 30th triple-double of the season and 67th of his career.

Doug McDermott scored 16 points and Enes Kanter added 15 points and nine rebounds for the Thunder, who trimmed Utah's Northwest Division lead to two games.

Westbrook scored and was fouled on a transition layup with 15.5 seconds to play. He completed the three-point play to give the Thunder a 108-106 lead. After Jerami Grant hit one of two free throws with a second left, Gordon Hayward missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer that could have forced overtime.

He led the Jazz with 19 points.

Nuggets 125, Bulls 107

In Chicago, Nikola Jokic had 19 points, 16 rebounds and 10 assists for his third triple-double of the season as Denver rode a second-half surge to beat Chicago.

Danilo Gallinari scored 22 points and Wilson Chandler added 20 as Denver, which entered the game fourth in the NBA in scoring (110.6 points per game), posted a 70-48 advantage in the second half to erase a halftime deficit.

Gary Harris and Will Barton had 15 points apiece for the Nuggets.

Dwyane Wade and Rajon Rondo had 19 points apiece for Chicago, which had its four-game winning streak snapped. Jimmy Butler finished with just eight points on 3-for-13 shooting.

Pistons 120, Trail Blazers 113, OT

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Marcus Morris scored a career-high 37 points, including Detroit's first seven in overtime, as the Pistons rallied from a 13-point, third-quarter deficit to beat Portland.

Ish Smith had 12 points, seven assists and seven steals for the Pistons. The backup point guard was scoreless heading into the fourth quarter but gave Detroit a huge lift down the stretch.

Damian Lillard had 34 points and 11 rebounds for Portland while falling an assist shy of his first triple-double. He had only one assist after the start of the fourth, however, and the Trail Blazers were eventually done in by their inability to take care of the ball.

C.J. McCollum scored 25 points for Portland.

Grizzlies 130, Suns 112

In Memphis, Tennessee, Mike Conley scored 29 points and Marc Gasol added 28 while making all five of his 3-point shots to lead Memphis past Phoenix.

Zach Randolph finished with 23 points and eight rebounds, while Tony Allen had 11 points as Memphis shot 56 percent, including 12 of 25 from outside the arc. The 130 points were a season high for Memphis, which won its second straight.

Conley was 10 of 19 from the field. Gasol shot 10 of 16 and Randolph was 10 of 15 as Memphis shot a season-best percentage from the field.

Eric Bledsoe had 20 points for the Suns, while TJ Warren finished with 17 and Alex Len had 12. Devin Booker, the Suns' second-leading scorer at 21.1 points a game, was limited to nine points on 3 of 11 from the floor.

Hornets 109, Lakers 104

In Los Angeles, Kemba Walker scored 30 points and hit the go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:55 to play as Charlotte rallied late for a victory over struggling Los Angeles.

Frank Kaminsky had 24 points and 12 rebounds for the Hornets, who won for just the third time in 16 games.

Julius Randle had 23 points, 18 rebounds and six assists for the Lakers (19-42), who have lost five straight and clinched four consecutive losing seasons for the first time since 1961, the franchise's first year on the West Coast.

Agent: Andrew Bogut has chosen the Cavaliers

Andrew Bogut has chosen to join the Cleveland Cavaliers, giving LeBron James and the defending champions another accomplished veteran as they prepare to mount a run to their third straight NBA Finals.

Bogut's agent, David Bauman of ISE, told The Associated Press on Tuesday night that Bogut plans to sign with the Cavaliers as soon as he clears waivers. Bauman anticipates that Bogut will join the defending NBA champions by this weekend.

Bogut was traded at the deadline from Dallas to Philadelphia in a deal that brought Nerlens Noel to the Mavericks. He and the 76ers agreed to part ways so Bogut could join a contender, and he had several teams lining up to add the defensive-minded center.

Boston, San Antonio and Houston were also chasing Bogut hard, hoping the 7-foot center could bring his gritty defensive chops and slick passing to bolster their playoff hopes. Bogut informed Cavaliers GM David Griffin that he planned to join the team on Tuesday night, and Bogut also took the time to reach out to the Celtics, Spurs and Rockets to thank them for their interest.

"The decision was a lot harder than he anticipated just because of the respect he had for everyone he spoke with," Bauman said in a phone interview with the AP.

One of the great characters in the league, Bogut posted a video on his Twitter feed of UB40's "Red Red Wine," a cheeky play on Cleveland's wine and gold color scheme.

In the end, Bauman said Bogut felt Cleveland offered him the best chance to get back to the finals, where he could face the team that let him go before the season started. He was an integral part of the Warriors' back-to-back runs to the finals the previous two years, which included a championship in 2015. But Golden State shipped him to Dallas last summer to help clear room for Kevin Durant, and now Bogut may get another crack at them.

Bogut will give the Cavaliers a championship-tested, rim-protecting backup to starter Tristan Thompson, one of the final elements Griffin was chasing to try to fortify the roster before the playoffs begin. With Kevin Love and J.R. Smith currently injured, the Eastern Conference-leading Cavs are in need of some reinforcements as they try to hold off Boston and Toronto for the top seed.

Bogut is the second significant addition the Cavaliers have been able to add this week. Point guard Deron Williams, a teammate of Bogut's in Dallas this season, landed in Cleveland after being waived by the Mavericks, giving the Cavaliers the playmaker and backup for Kyrie Irving that they sorely lacked.

There were times that the bigger, more physical Bogut was rendered ineffective in the playoffs, particularly when Warriors opponents went small and spread the floor. But the Cavaliers want to be as flexible as possible as they pursue a third straight trip to the finals, and having Bogut in the fold allows them to match up against big front lines, and perhaps try to punish smaller frontcourts when the opportunity presents itself.

Bogut has long been one of the better passing big men in the league, so he should fit in seamlessly with James, Irving and Love—when he returns from knee surgery—on the offensive end as well.

He averaged 3.0 points and 8.3 rebounds in 26 games for the Mavericks this season. But playing a supporting role behind Thompson should offer the oft-injured Australian a better chance to stay fresh and healthy when the playoffs arrive.

He will be a free agent this summer, and Bauman said this whirlwind recruitment period helped prepare him for that experience.

Adrian Peterson a free agent after 10 years with Vikings

AP

In this Sept. 18, 2016, file photo, Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson carries the ball during the first half of an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers in Minneapolis.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Adrian Peterson, Minnesota's all-time leading rusher and a first-team All-Pro pick in four of his 10 seasons with the Vikings, will be an unrestricted free agent for the first time in his career when the market opens next week.

The Vikings as expected said Tuesday they will not exercise their option for 2017 on Peterson's contract, which called for him to make $18 million. That would have been an unwieldly hit to their salary cap and by far the highest figure in the NFL for a running back. Pittsburgh's decision to place the franchise tag on Le'Veon Bell will likely mean a $12 million-plus salary for the 25-year-old, but nobody else at the position in the league is even close.

The Vikings left the door open for Peterson to return to the team that drafted him in 2007 with the seventh overall pick, only at a much lower price. The fact that they announced their decision nine days before the deadline was an indication that little dialogue about a new deal has taken place to date. General manager Rick Spielman told reporters last week that he had not yet spoken at that point to Peterson or his agents about the future.

"Adrian is an important part of the Minnesota Vikings organization," Spielman said Tuesday. "We will continue to have conversations with his representatives and leave our future options open while determining what is best for both parties moving forward."

Peterson's agent, Ben Dogra, didn't return messages from The Associated Press. Peterson told ESPN he spoke with Spielman over the weekend.

"It's been a great 10 years with the Minnesota Vikings. They know what I bring to the organization as a player, with my work ethic and dedication," Peterson said, according to the network. "The door is still open to find some common ground. I understand addressing the offensive line is one of their main priorities this offseason. In the meantime, I will explore my other options and see what path God leads me on. My main goal remains the same: to win a Super Bowl championship with a great team, which I also believe we have in Minnesota."

Peterson has occasionally hinted at interest in playing elsewhere, even cryptically tweeting last week that the New York Giants have intrigued him with their recent moves that included releasing wide receiver Victor Cruz and running back Rashad Jennings to make space under the salary cap. Before the 2014 season, an ESPN profile on Dallas owner Jerry Jones revealed a casual phone conversation between Peterson and Jones during which the running back expressed his desire to one day play for the Cowboys team he grew up rooting for in East Texas.

Peterson, who turns 32 in three weeks, is coming off a meniscus tear in his right knee that limited him to 72 yards on 37 carries over parts of three games in 2016. He suited up only once in 2014 because of the child abuse case he was involved in. Even with the league-leading 1,485 yards he rushed for in 2015 and factoring in his receiving totals, Peterson has cost the Vikings about $18,000 per yard over the last three years. He also has limited passing-game skills that the majority of standout running backs in the league possess, with little experience running out of the shotgun or pistol formations that most teams favor in the current pass-heavy NFL.

In another sobering reminder of the short shelf life for players at this position, Kansas City also released 30-year-old and four-time Pro Bowl running back Jamaal Charles on Tuesday. Charles is eighth on the active career rushing list; Peterson is second behind Frank Gore.

Since recovering from ACL reconstruction on his left knee to rush for 2,097 yards in 2012 and win the NFL MVP award, Peterson has expressed particular defiance toward the evidence that running backs wear down by age 30. He has long said he believes he can play deep into his 30s.

The Vikings, though, have dire needs on the offensive line to address. This class of running backs in the upcoming draft also is considered one of the deepest in years, a point that Spielman made without prompting in his interview last week.

The betting books in Las Vegas didn't miss an opportunity to set the market. Bovada pegged Peterson's return to the Vikings at 5-to-1 odds, trailing only the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (3 to 1). The Giants and Chiefs were also set at 5 to 1.

Jets inform Darrelle Revis that he's being released

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Jets are moving on from one of the best players in their franchise's history.

The team informed star cornerback Darrelle Revis on Tuesday that they are releasing him, ending his second tenure with the Jets—a two-year run that was marked by a stunning slip in play because of injuries and age.

Revis, 31, was scheduled to make $15 million, including a $2 million roster bonus, next season—but that would have been a lofty salary for an aging player who admittedly had a subpar year.

The move, which was expected, makes Revis a free agent while also clearing about $9.3 million on the salary cap.

The Jets still owe him $6 million as part of the $39 million in guarantees in the five-year, $70 million deal he signed with New York in 2015.

"Darrelle Revis is one of the greatest players to ever wear a Jets uniform," owner Woody Johnson said in a statement. "His combination of talent, preparation and instincts is rare and helped him become one of the most dominant players of his generation.

"I appreciate Darrelle's contributions to this organization and, wherever his career takes him, his home will always be here with the Jets."

Revis is facing four felony counts, including aggravated assault and other charges alleging he was in a fight with two men on Feb. 12 in Pittsburgh. A pre-trial hearing will be held on March 15.

A source with direct knowledge of the decision said Revis' legal issues didn't play a factor. Revis' time with the Jets had long been assumed to be over because of his decline in play and the hefty contract.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team did not publicly discuss its decision-making process.

The Jets will not, according to the person, try to recoup any of the $6 million in guarantees as a result of Revis' arrest. The team did its due diligence in reviewing the contract language, but ultimately decided to not go that route.

In a statement posted on his Twitter account , Revis said: "I can't thank Woody Johnson and the entire Jets organization enough for taking a chance on me back in 2007. I played some of my greatest football in green and white. Jet Nation has always been behind me and teammates. Without all of you, there would be no Revis Island. I love you New York!!!!!!"

Revis established himself as one of the top players in franchise history after being drafted No. 14 overall in 2007, earning the nickname, "Revis Island" for his penchant for routinely shutting down opposing teams' top receivers from Terrell Owens to Chad Johnson to Andre Johnson.

Opposing offenses would often game plan away from Revis' side of the field as the cornerback dominated in coverage. He made four straight Pro Bowl appearances after his rookie season and was selected a first-team All-Pro three times in that stretch.

"Darrelle is the consummate professional and one of the greatest to ever play the cornerback position," Jets coach Todd Bowles said in a statement.

Revis also gained a reputation for being a savvy businessman, who engaged in a handful of tough contract negotiations during his time in New York.

A torn knee ligament early in 2012 ended his season after just three games. It appeared to be the end of Revis' time with the Jets as he was traded to Tampa Bay in 2013 to cap what had been a messy divorce filled with contract disputes.

He was released by the Buccaneers after that season, and signed by New York's AFC East rival, New England - and helped the Patriots win the Super Bowl.

But New England declined a $20 million option for the following season, making Revis a free agent. New York jumped at the chance to reunite with Revis, signing him to a huge deal in March 2015 that was met by praise from Jets fans.

Revis played through a wrist injury that affected his ability to jam receivers at the line of scrimmage—a big part of his game—and led to a somewhat subpar performance in 2015, although he still made his seventh Pro Bowl.

He came to camp last summer a bit out of shape, and he then struggled throughout the season while appearing to be only a shell of his shutdown self. He allowed some big plays that once seemed unthinkable against him.

Revis blamed age and injuries on his decline, and even entertained the idea of perhaps switching to safety next season.

Revis was also, for the first time in his career, the target of regular criticism from some fans and media, who pointed out what was perceived to be a lack of effort on tackle attempts, as well as his work ethic and abilities.

"I think people don't respect me enough, which is fine," Revis told the AP in November. "I don't know why, though, because the numbers are there. I've proven myself year in and year out for a number of years, and they're not being respectful to that."

Revis was largely a victim of his own greatness, setting the bar so high with stellar play for so long that any slip in his performance was noticeable—and surprising.

In an offseason in which the Jets have already parted ways with the likes of center Nick Mangold, kicker Nick Folk and right tackle Breno Giacomini, it was only a matter of time before New York made the inevitable move to release Revis.

"When you're dealing with a player of Darrelle's caliber, these decisions are extremely hard to make," general manager Mike Maccagnan said in a statement. "We all have a great deal of respect for Darrelle and the significance of his time with the Jets cannot be overstated. He provided an example of how a pro should approach his craft and established his place in NFL history as one of the best at his position."

Pitchless intentional walks could start this week

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Pitchless intentional walks could start in spring training games this week.

Baseball commissioner Rob Manfred said the change, which the players' association has said it will agree to for 2017, is among the rule changes that have been distributed to teams. Planned modifications to video review rules for this season include a 30-second time limit for managers to request a review, and a two-minute limit for the review umpire in New York to make a decision—unless a supervisor in the replay room gives permission for the umpire to take longer.

Under the change to the intentional walk rule, a team can signal for an intentional walk without pitches being thrown. Manfred said Major League Baseball staff has been going over the changes with teams, and the new intentional walk rule probably will go into effect this week.

"As soon as we're done with the clubs, we'll start implementing the pitchless intentional walk," Manfred said Tuesday before the opening game of the new spring training ballpark of Houston and Washington. "We need to give them a chance to at least look at the rules before we move ahead and implement it on the field."

AP

Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred answers questions at a news conference Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017, in Phoenix.

Wanting to speed the pace of play, management also discussed raising the lower edge of the strike zone from just beneath the kneecap to its pre-1996 level the top of the kneecap, the installation of pitch clocks and limits on trips to the pitcher's mound.

The players' union said it will not agree to changes in those areas this year. Under baseball's labor contract, management can make unilateral changes to playing rules only with one year advance notice.

"The intentional walk with no pitches was a small change in a much larger package," Manfred said. "We don't think that particular change—we know how the math works - is going to have a momentous impact on the game. By the same token, every little change that makes the game faster I personally believe is a good thing for the game over the long haul."

Manfred said talks will continue with union head Tony Clark and players.

"I think what I'd like to do is have our dialogue with the players privately," Manfred said. "Over the years it served us best to have those conversations in a room. I talked to Tony last week. We talked about the idea of getting together and looking at information about the game with a group of players."

Other changes planned for this year include revised language to stop quick pitchers and to keep first- and third-base coaches in the coach's boxes.

MCS

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lopsided victory against Seventh Day Adventist, 43-11, at the ACS turf in Middle Road.

With its immaculate mark, MCS automatically advanced to the semifinals, while Agape is likely to face the last place team in the quarterfinal round. The Torchbearers will play their last game in the regular season today as they take on the winless Grace Christian Academy. With the Eagles yet to enter the win column, pending the results of their match against Saipan Community School yesterday, the former may face the second-seeded Agape in the quarterfinals that will start on March 7. The other Round of 8 pairings are No. 4 versus No. 5 teams and No. 3 against No. 6 and designation of these spots have yet to be determined as there are a couple of make-up games left in the regular season.

Meanwhile, Agape's 33-point win came after a close victory against Marianas Baptist Academy last Tuesday, 28-25.

Against the MBA Tigers, the Torchbearers scored 9 points each in the first and third quarters to build enough cushion, going into the final canto. Agape led by 23-20 after the third canto and then matched MBA's 5 points in the fourth to hang on to the win. Silas and Tychicus Xu combined for 17 points to help Agape beat MBA again.

Versus SDA, the Xu siblings along with Mac Guintu teamed up in handing the Torchbearers a 20-4 halftime edge en route to their ninth win.

Mt. Carmel duplicated Agape's two straight victories this week as the Knights, before topping SIS, also prevailed against SDA last Monday, 36-16.

The Knights are highly favored to make a return trip to the finals as they need to win on March 8 (semis round) to have a title to defense their middle school title. MCS pulled off a come-from-behind 40-38 victory over Agape in last year's finale.

Despite the advantage, MCS coach Francis San Nicolas said there's no room for complacency in the playoffs.

"We have to work harder because other teams are improving, too and you'll never know what's going to happen in the playoffs. We have to play wiser and polish our plays," said San Nicolas.

COMETS

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in the fourth inning.

The Blue Jays' two runs at the top of the fourth cut the Comets' lead to one, 2-3, before a five-run bottom of the seventh gave the eventual leaders cushion going into the last two innings.

In other results, GSM went for the kill early, scoring nine runs in the second inning for the 10-run mercy rule victory over the BSI Aces (1-1).

Anthony Tenorio had a two-run double, Tyrone Omar hit a two-run triple, and John Taitano, Jesse Brel, and Pat Alepuyo each hit an RBI single in the second-inning surge, while Pete Tomokane's single in the fifth drove Brel home for GSM's last run.

The BSI Aces, who stunned defending champions Chalan Kanoa Bears during the league's opening game, had several chances to avert a shutdown, however they were frustrated by GSM's defense each time. The BSI Aces had the best opportunity to score at the bottom of the fifth with the bases loaded, however Tenorio caught a fly ball from Luis Iguel at centerfield for the third out.

Meanwhile, the Falcons soared past Titanium in last Monday's game, 21-9.

Greg Iskawa was only 2-for-4, but scored four RBIs and two runs. Giovanni Mira went 3-for-4 and logged three RBIs and one run, while Ian Norita hit 4-for-6 and registered two runs and two RBIs. A.J. Evangelista was only 2-for-4 at the plate, but had the most runs with four.

The Falcons, who were up by just three after eight complete innings, 12-9, saved the best for last, firing nine runs at the top of the ninth. Their defense then held Titanium to a 1-2-3 inning at the bottom of the ninth and the Falcons managed to bounce back from their debut loss against the D-9ers (7-5) last week.

CONTRACTOR

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was informed by one of the contractor's employees that some materials for the resurfacing project have arrived.

"I will be arranging a meeting with the owner of Tang's Corp. to get more updates about the materials," the NMSA official said.

Rogolifoi also assured that the layering work at the track will not start until the contractor brings in an expert that would make sure that measurements and the resurfacing of the facility are done in accordance with the standards of the International Association of Athletics Federations.

The contractor has a little over two months to complete the project as deadline was set to 150 days after the notice to proceed (Nov. 15, 2016) was issued.

"I am positive that the resurfacing work will be done on time," Rogolifoi said.

Meanwhile, the NMSA executive director disclosed that the bidder which won the contract for the repair works at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium failed to complete the required documents thus the delay in the project.

Rogolifoi added that NMSA and the CNMI Capital Improvement Projects are looking into the contractor that offers the second lowest bid for the project. However, the NMSA official learned that the contractor is the same company that worked on the Ada Gym flooring, which now has some damage.

"I learned the materials used before were for households. We need the materials that are really appropriate for the gym so I want to find out first what the other contractor is offering. We don't want to see the same damage in such a short time again," Rogolifoi said.

Mets' Wright has shoulder injury, won't throw for 2 weeks

NEW YORK (AP)—Mets captain David Wright has returned from spring training to New York, been diagnosed with impingement in his right shoulder and was told not to throw for two weeks.

The team says the third baseman was examined Tuesday at the Hospital for Special Surgery after feeling discomfort. He will be re-evaluated after the two weeks, and could be a designated hitter then.

The 34-year-old, a seven-time All-Star, has been limited to 75 regular-season games during the past two seasons. He was on the disabled list from April 15 to Aug. 24, 2015, when he strained his right hamstring and then developed spinal stenosis. He returned and helped the Mets win their first NL pennant since 2000. Last season, he was batting .226 with seven homers, 14 RBIs and 55 strikeouts in 137 at-bats through May 27 when he was sidelined by neck pain. He had season-ending surgery June 16 to repair a herniated disk.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	38	22	.633	—
Toronto	36	24	.600	2
New York	24	36	.400	14
Philadelphia	22	37	.373	15½
Brooklyn	9	49	.155	28

Southeast Division

Washington	35	23	.603	—
Atlanta	33	26	.559	2½
Miami	27	33	.450	9
Charlotte	26	34	.433	10
Orlando	22	38	.367	14

Central Division

Cleveland	41	17	.707	—
Indiana	31	29	.517	11
Chicago	30	30	.500	12
Detroit	29	31	.483	13
Milwaukee	26	32	.448	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	45	13	.776	—
Houston	42	19	.689	4½
Memphis	36	25	.590	10½
Dallas	24	35	.407	21½
New Orleans	23	37	.383	23

Northwest Division

Utah	37	23	.617	—
Oklahoma City	35	25	.583	2
Denver	27	33	.450	10
Portland	24	35	.407	12½
Minnesota	24	36	.400	13

Pacific Division

x-Golden State	50	10	.833	—
L.A. Clippers	36	23	.610	13½
Sacramento	25	35	.417	25
L.A. Lakers	19	42	.311	31½
Phoenix	18	42	.300	32

x-clinched playoff spot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VolleyTime Tournament

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Goal Diggers members pose with their first place medals and trophy during the awards ceremony for the 2017 VolleyTime Tournament held last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

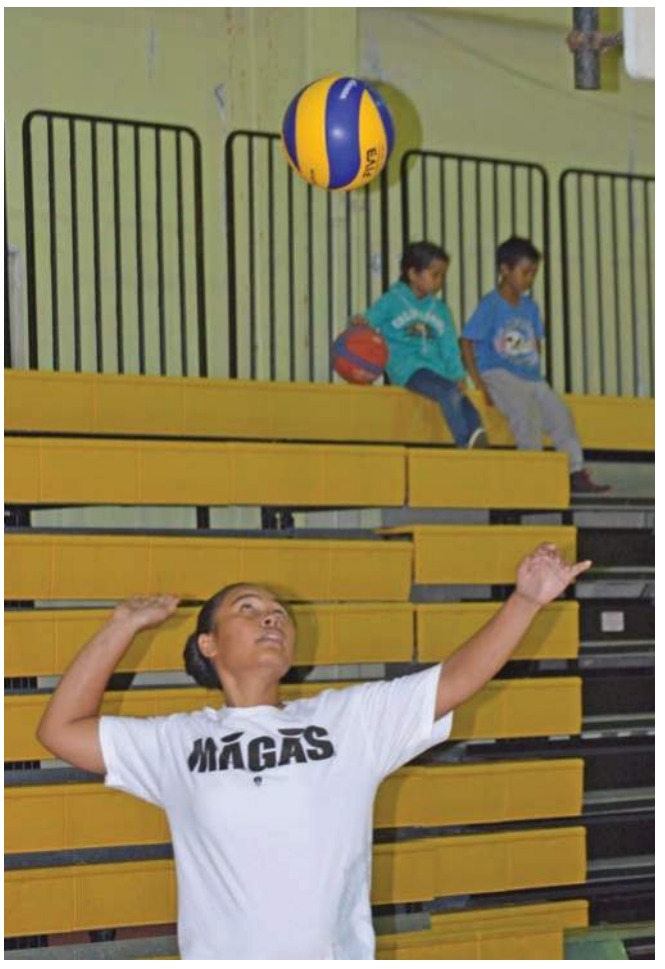
Runners-up Serve It & 4Get It players are joined in a photo by Preston Basa, standing second left, of tournament sponsor Ol'Aces.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ball Crushers players show off their first place medals and championship trophy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

All Stars 1/2 players receive their runner-up trophy in the girls division.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Mix Blood player serves to Swerve Up.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Serve It & 4Get It player bumps the ball.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ball Crushers' Jeff Riman, left, tries to block Serve It & 4Get It's Don Cabrera.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Swerve Up's Negahr Rastguiy tips the ball.

Warriors lose Durant to injury, lose game to Wizards

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MCS, Agape get Top 2 spots

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School swept the regular season, while Agape Christian School is poised to finish second in the team standings in the boys middle school division in the 2016-2017 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League.

The Knights wrapped up the double-round robin competition with an impressive 12-0 record following a 38-18 rout of Saipan International School yesterday at the SIS court in As Lito, while Agape improved to a 9-2 record after a similar

See MCS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Agape Christian School's Mac Guintu gets away with a fastbreak layup during the third quarter of their game against Seventh Day Adventist in the boys middle school division of the private school league yesterday at the ACS court in Middle Road.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Comets' Lorenzo Sebaklim does pitching drills before their game against the D-9ers in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Comets, GSM share SBL lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Comets and Go See Mark are in a tie for the early lead in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League.

The Comets outclassed the D-9ers, 5-3, in last Tuesday's game at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield to improve their record to 2-0, the same mark GSM holds following a 10-0 rout of the BSI Aces last Friday.

Frank Nakamura scored three RBIs in the Comets' victory against the D-9ers, making an RBI triple at the bottom of the third inning and a two-run single in the seventh. He was 2-for-4 at bat.

Lorenzo Sebaklim hit 3-for-4, had two singles and one double, and tallied two runs. He also pitched in no relief and recorded 15 strikeouts.

The Comets' victory over the D-9ers came less than a week after the former won their debut game against the Blue Jays, 8-2, last Thursday.

Nakamura was the pitcher for the Comets and he did a good job, fanning out 12 batters, while giving up only one earned run. Nakamura struck out the Blue Jays' first three batters in the sixth and eighth inning and with him on the mound, their opponents only reached home plate

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Contractor working on track's drainage system

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The resurfacing work at the Oleai Sports Complex's track and field facility has been progressing nicely, according to Northern Marianas Sports Association executive director Tony Rogolifoi.

The old surface at the eight-lane track oval has been removed and since last week, contractor Tang's Corp. has been working with the drainage system of the facility.

"I was told that the old track has no proper drainage system so that's one of the factors that contributed to the faster deterioration of the facility. Now, they are working on a better drainage system to ensure the longevity of the new track," Rogolifoi said.

As for the layering of the new track, Rogolifoi said he

See CONTRACTOR on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The resurfacing work at the Oleai Sports Complex's track and field facility includes the installation of a better drainage system.